



The Bulletin



July 2014

bulletin@fculittle.org

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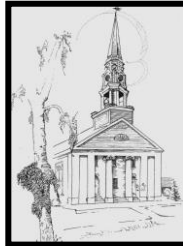
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Sunday Worship Services

Joint Summer Service- Sun. Aug 3, 2014 Littleton, Harvard, and Stow/Acton UU Churches

On Sunday, August 3th at 10:00 AM, the Harvard UU Church will host the Joint Summer Service of the three UU churches. The service will be in the sanctuary of the Harvard church and is modeled after a Sunday morning, minister-led service.

Aaron Stockwell, will lead the worship service. Sermon will be "Radical Hospitality." He is a UU ministerial candidate, who served as sabbatical minister at the Harvard church from December 2013-April 2014 and is the incoming Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education at the First Parish in Lexington.

Ted Johnson, Harvard's music director, will lead the "pick-up" choir. Rehearsal begins at 8:30AM, and all singers are welcome. The choir will sing a choral introit and anthem.

Children are welcome. However, baby-sitting is not offered, and there are no Religious Education programs during the summer.

Refreshments will be offered after the service. Donations of finger-food desserts would be appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you in August. Contact Elinor at egentilman@comcast.net

Elinor McCarthy Gentilman
Joint Summer Service Team



"Again and again, the cicada's untiring cry pierced the sultry summer air like a needle at work on thick cotton cloth."

— [Yukio Mishima, Runaway Horses](#)

Church Business



Deacon News

Summer Services

Our last regular Sunday worship service has passed, but we have more in store for you.

Niela Miller and Caroline Marvin are offering a service called Spirit & Psyche for the July 20 Soulful Sundown service at 7pm in the Vestry. They will share stories and thoughts about spiritual development, personal growth through psychotherapy, and other forms of inner and outer evolution. Congregants will be invited to share experiences from their own lives which have led to healing, insight, greater spiritual depth and breadth, service to others, or wisdom.

Our joint summer service is at the Harvard UU church this year on August 3 at 10AM. If you have not experienced one of these, please give it a try. You won't be disappointed. More information is available elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.

The August Soulful Sundown will be on Aug. 17th at 7PM. More information will appear in next month's Bulletin.

Goodbye

As I write this my 4 year term as a Deacon is coming to an end. It was an amazing four years and a wonderfully enriching experience. I have learned a lot about the efforts required, by many of our congregants and our minister, to keep our church running smoothly. It takes special people to make FCU the special place that it is. I am so very grateful for the relationships I developed with many of you and the support you gave me.

I leave you in good hands. We have a strong Deacon team led by Prisl Dumka, backed by Jon Welch, Debbie Eston, and our newest Deacon Louis Massauro. Please give them all the love and support you gave to me. Always keep in mind that the Deacons *do* want to hear from you. Your suggestions help us to bring you the best worship service experience possible. If you are offered the opportunity to serve as a Deacon, take it if you can. It will be your gain and ours.

Larry Kaylor, For the Deacons

Spirit Matters

Hello Dear Ones,

As has become my custom, here is a poem to send you along on your summer adventures and escapades. This year I have Littleton's 300th on my mind, and although this one is not about Massachusetts specifically, it did remind me of small town living. In its own way too, it's about searching for the things that make us praise.

If You Get There Before I do by Dick Allen

Air out the linens, unlatch the shutters on the eastern side,
and maybe find that deck of Bicycle cards lost near the sofa.
Or maybe walk around and look out the back windows first.
I hear the view's magnificent: old silent piers leading down to the lakeside,
layer upon layer of magnificent light. Should you be hungry,
I'm sorry but there's no Chinese takeout, only a General Store.
You passed it coming in. But you probably didn't notice its weary gas pump
along with all those Esso cans from decades ago.
If you're somewhat confused, think Vermont,
that state where people are folded into the mountains like berries in batter...
What I'd like when I get there is a few hundred years to sit around and concentrate
on one thing at a time. I'd start with radiators and work my way up to Meister Eckhart,
Or why do so few people turn their lives around, so many take small steps into what they never do,
the first weeks, the first lessons, until they choose something other,
beginning and beginning their lives, so never knowing what it's like to risk
last minute failure....I'd save blue for last.
Klein blue, or the blue of Crater Lake on an early June morning.
That would take decades....Don't forget to sway the fence gate back and forth
a few times just for its creaky sound. When you swing in the tire swing
make sure your socks are off. You've forgotten, I expect, the feeling of feet brushing the tops of sun-
flowers:
In Vermont, I once met a ski bum on a summer break who had planned on at least seven more.
We're here for the enjoyment of it, he said, to salaam into joy....
I expect you'll find Bibles scattered everywhere, or Talmuds, or Qur'ans,
as well as little snippets of gospel music, chants, old Advent calendars with their paper doors still open.
You might pay them some heed.
Don't be alarmed when what's familiar starts fading, as gradually you lose your bearings,
your body seems to turn opaque and then transparent, until finally invisible—
what old age rehearses us for and vacations in the limbo of the Middle West.
Take it easy, take it slow. When you think I'm on my way, the long middle passage done,
fill the pantry with cereal, curry, and blue and white boxes of macaroni, place the checkerboard set,
or chess if you insist, out on the flat-topped stump beneath the porch's shadow,
pour some lemonade into the tallest glass you can find in the cupboard,
then drum your fingers, practice lifting your eyebrows, until you tell them—
the skeptics, the bigots, blind neighbors, those damn-with-faint-praise critics on their hobbyhorses—
that I'm allowed, and if there's a place for me that love has kept protected,
I'll be coming, I'll be coming.

Happy Summer!

Love,
Rev. Marta

FIRST CHURCH UNITARIAN ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR UPDATE

- When:** Saturday Sept 13th, 10am-4pm
Where: Fay Park (across the street from FCU)
Why: A major fundraiser for the FCU budget and a great fun community day providing good clean fun for all ages
Who: Friends and Members of FCU run the fair
Everyone is invited to attend

The Fair will be here before you know it! Now that Rev. Marta has returned from her Sabbatical the barn is open for your gently used donations from 5PM - dusk every day, weekends preferred. If you have not yet signed up for a role in this year's Fair, or heard from Fair Chair Monica Pilman or one of the Fair's booth captains about your role in this year's Fair, you soon will. We need as much help as we can get. If there is a specific job you want to do, or a specific suggestion you have to offer, please contact fair@fculittle.org, or see other Fair-related information below.

Secret Bid Auction

Last year's effort to offer our Fair goes a Secret Bid Auction was a success, so we will run it again. Throughout the Fair day, Fair goes place secret bids on special objects in this tent, and at the end of the day, the high bidder wins the item. We are **seeking donations for this event**. Suggestions include things like gift certificates to local stores/restaurants/fun places; a weekend or week in a vacation home; baskets of goodies (for example, a basket of made-in-Massachusetts chocolates, or spa products, or a lovely selection of bird feeders and foods...be creative!), or works of art. You may specify a minimum bid for the item. At day's end, we contact the high bidder and arrange for them to pick up their prizes.

What can I do this summer to get ready for the Fair?

Books and DVDs

Weed out your bookcases and bring your gently used books and DVDs to the parsonage barn for the used book table. Books and DVDs can be left at the back corner of the parsonage barn on the ground floor. (Look for signs) Please, **no copies** of DVDs - your original DVD donations need to be in their original jewel cases or boxes! I'm sorry but we will no longer accept VHS tapes, CDs, 8-track tapes, vinyl record albums, or BetaMax.

Trash and Treasure and Kid's Trash and Treasure

Clean out your basements, attics, and garages and bring your trash - someone else's treasure - to the parsonage barn. Items are to be carried to the second floor of the barn. Please make sure that what you bring is in good, reusable shape! If you need help getting items upstairs, contact us at barn@fculittle.org. If the item is for use by a child make sure that it is in excellent condition and that it adheres to current safety guidelines for children's playthings.

Jewelry

The jewelry table at the Country Fair could use your jewelry donations for re-sale on fair day. Any silver, gold, semi-precious or (dare I hope) precious stone contributions will be priced and displayed accordingly. Jewelry can be dropped off at the church in the Vestry. The Church is open Tuesday through Friday 9:30am to 2:30pm.

Dropping off donations at the parsonage barn

The parsonage barn is located at 27 Foster Street, two houses down from the church. You can enter the barn by the left side door. All Trash and Treasure items are to be taken to the upper level of the barn. Please note the signs of unaccepted items (Thank you). If you need help, send email to barn@fculittle.org with your request. Please be careful not to leave items where they don't belong and be mindful about not disturbing our minister's family when you visit the barn. The barn is open for deliveries after 5 PM until dusk daily, but weekend deliveries are preferred.

Outside Vendor Booths

Do you have a friend who has a business selling locally made original items and wants to have a booth at our Fair? Have them contact us at fair@fculittle.org to obtain a booth!

Non-profit Booths

Local non-profits are also welcome to have a booth at our Fair in order to promote their organizations. They may even run small fundraisers as long as what they have in mind does not conflict with any church-sponsored booths (check with us to make sure!). Contact Martha Childs for details.

What Can I Do to Help with the Fair itself?

Friday setup, September 6th

Friday set up starts at 3:00 PM with setting up the big rental tents. At 6:00 PM we'll switch to other Fair setup tasks and will end with a setup dinner fixed by Bob and Susan and their helpers at approx. 8:00 PM in the downstairs dining room at FCU. People with trucks and trailers are especially needed! You can arrive at any time and there will be a job for you. See Monica Pilman when you arrive to get your assignment. Or just join a work crew in progress and help out!

Friday night tasks will include setting up tents, prepping food for our Lunch Table, sorting items from the barn, and moving picnic tables and books. One goal for Friday night is to transport as many books as possible from the Barn to the Vestry, and as much Trash and Treasures as possible across the street into Fay Park. If you have signed up for Used Books, we would love to have you participate in the book transfer on Friday night. Since we are moving stuff into the park on Friday night we will need tarps to cover our stuff keep it dry. If you have a tarp that we can borrow please bring it with you.

Saturday morning early setup on Fair Day, September 8th

Set up starts promptly at 7am! We need all the help we can get for this task. We highly recommend that you wear boots for safety and come ready to move lots of trash and treasure items. Coffee and donuts will be waiting for you on the Parsonage porch when you arrive. If you have a truck and/or trailer that you can bring we would love that also.

Breakdown and cleanup after 4pm on Saturday

Many people arrive as early as 7am and work the fair throughout the entire day making the events flow flawlessly. This can make for a very long day. If you are someone who can't make it to the fair because of family or sports commitments during the day would you consider coming at the end of the fair to help with the clean up and break down? We could really use the fresh and energized legs to help with the breakdown that starts at 4pm promptly. See Monica Pilman for an assignment when you arrive, or join a work crew in progress.

ITEMS WE NEED FOR FAIR DAY

Canopies, Tarps, Tables, Ice Chests (coolers) If you own a canopy or tarp or table we would love to use it. We also need lots of ice chests and large coolers for storing drinks. If you drop your tarp/canopy off at the church we will happily set it up for you. As you know, shade is at a premium and canopies help to make the day much more pleasant for those working the booths. All items can be dropped off at the church at any time on Friday straight thru to Saturday morning. **Be sure to label your tarps, canopies, tables, and coolers!**

Baked Goods and homegrown tomatoes We have a Baked Goods table that would welcome your donations of homemade baked goods and fudge. Homegrown tomatoes are greatly appreciated by the lunch table and will taste yummy in our sandwich offerings. Baked goods and tomatoes can be dropped off any time Friday afternoon or evening in the dining room downstairs. Label them "For the Fair."

Beverages

Cases of water, juice, or soda are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off on Friday night or first thing Saturday morning.

WHO DO I CALL TO SIGN UP OR GET MORE INFORMATION?

Monica Pilman (Queen) 508-331-9220

Mike Pilman (Court Jester) 978-264-0818

email about Fair business

fair@fculittle.org

email if you need barn help barn@fculittle.org

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR

The Month of July:

July 1, Canada Day

(**French: Fête du Canada**) is the **national day** of **Canada** celebrating the anniversary of the July 1, 1867, enactment of the **British North America Act, 1867** which united three **colonies** into a single country called *Canada* within the **British Empire**. Canada Day observances take place throughout Canada as well as among Canadians internationally.

July 4, Independence Day

Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a **federal holiday** in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain (now officially known as the United Kingdom). Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies. Independence Day is the National Day of the United States.

July 14th, Bastille Day

Bastille Day commemorates modern France and French democracy. Bastille Day is a French holiday.

Bastille Day symbolizes the end of the constitutional monarchy, and the beginning of the democratic republic of France. To Frenchmen, Bastille Day is viewed as their liberation.

Bastille Day is actually called Fete de la Federation. In France, it is a holiday that is celebrated with military parades.

Stuff to Do at FCU

Offer a Hand Up...

Potential volunteers are invited to visit a prison Toastmasters program to consider becoming a regular mentor. "You will know from one visit if prison volunteering is for you," said Cynthia Heiland, an FCU member and coordinator of a Toastmasters program in Gardner that meets every Wednesday night.

Volunteers must: be willing to serve at least twice a month; pass a criminal background check; and enjoy teaching, speaking and mentoring. Training is provided by the Department of Corrections and by participating in the Toastmasters programs in prison. Prior experience as a Toastmaster is not required. Long term volunteers are needed at the Shirley complex on Monday and Thursday nights.

Potential volunteers may observe the program at Gardner or Shirley. They may give a guest talk of 5-7 minutes, on a topic to prepare the incarcerated people for release, such as interviewing, anger management, how to find a job, starting a business, home budgeting, what makes a good employee, parenting and healthy living.

For more information, visit d31toastmastersprison.wikispaces.com or speak to FCU member Cynthia Heiland, cgheiland@me.com, [508 331-3307] or Susan Tordella, susan.tordella@gmail.com, 978- 772 3930.



Caring for our Aging Parents

Monday, July 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. For more information, feel free to contact COAP@fculittle.org or speak with Prisl Dumka.



Sanctuary Quilt Show

The Women's Alliance continues the preparations for the quilt show to be held Friday, Oct.17 and Saturday, Oct 18. If you have a family quilt, please consider letting us borrow it for the event....maybe a quilt you have made or one made by a family member or friend. We are particularly interested in the story of the quilt. Quilts do not need to be in "perfect" condition but should be hand made. Interested in participating in some other way? Please let us know. We'd love the help! For more information contact Judy White at 978-486-3273 or jawhite10@verizon.net

Here are a few things to do over the summer:

Be a part of the broader Community:

Do something good for the community this summer. Help to clean up a park, volunteer to walk a dog at the shelter, deliver food and company to an elderly person, or find something else that is meaningful to you. You'll be making a difference in the lives of others.

Read a book: or two, or three...

Go camping! If you can't go to a campsite, try your own backyard or go wild camping.

Keep your mind active. Solve puzzles, organize and clean, and learn new things. Studies have shown that your I.Q. drops significantly during long sessions of limited use, such as summer.

Try different foods that you have never had before.

Learn a language. How about French? Or Spanish?

Update your wardrobe. Sort through your clothes, and pick out the ones that you don't want/are too small for you and give them to charity. There is a Goodwill drop off trailer in Concord.

Jammin' is Happenin'

Fruit and Jars

And fruit in jars! The Jammin' in the Kitchen crew has been hard at work for the last three months and are well on the way to stocking the shelves in the Country Store at The Fair this fall. And you can help! Do you have a surplus of fruit in your garden this summer? Do you have empty jars waiting to be refilled? We would love to help you out! Jars can be dropped off in the vestry. A basket will be waiting for them. Please contact Kris Erslund at kersland1@gmail.com or at 978-486-0574 to make arrangements for fruit. If you don't have your own orchard, we would gladly accept donations from local farm stands, or cases of canning jars, half pint only, please. We would also love your company if you would like to give Jammin' a try. We're in the downstairs kitchen every Tuesday from 7 – 9 pm, through the end of August.



Thank you! Kris Erslund on behalf of Jammin' in the Kitchen

Women's Alliance Corner:

Crafts! Crafts! Crafts!

Over the summer we will have periodic crafting days. All are welcome, no crafting experience is necessary. Contact Wendy McDougall at WAM@theworld.com or (978)486-3254 for upcoming dates.





FCU is Socially Active

Loaves & Fishes

Thank you for your generous donations to Loaves & Fishes (L&F) in the last month. As a community we collected 5 bags and one small box of food items, which was gratefully and graciously accepted by the pantry. The FCU community is invited to bring one item (or more) per month to support *Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry* in Devens. For a list beyond March please pick up a pink card in the Vestry.

If you have any questions please contact CSJ@fculittle.org.

~Rochelle Chambless, for the Council on Social Justice



Loaves & Fishes (L&F)

July/August – Backpacks & School supplies

Check out the L&F website www.devenspantry.org for other ways to support this important organization and other donation information

Share-the-Plate

Nominate your local charity!!

You can nominate your favorite local charity as a FCU Share the Plate recipient! Just send the name to STP@FCUlittle.org . On the third 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.

Neighborhood Supper

Brownies Needed

FCU is cooking the Neighborhood Supper on Tuesday, June 17th. We offer Brownies for dessert after the supper. If you would like to help us out, you can drop off Brownies for dessert at the Congregational Church on the day of the supper, or contact Neighborhood@fculittle.org for other arrangements.

~Kris Ersland, for the Neighborhood Supper Task Force



FCU - FYI Church Staff

Minister:

Rev. Marta Valentín
minister@fculittle.org

Open office hours: Tuesday,
Wednesday and Friday : 10am -
1pm

Thursday and Saturday are sermon
preparation time and writing days.
Monday is Rev. Marta's day of
Sabbath (unless there is an emer-
gency).

Rev. Marta will also meet with you
by appointment at another mutual-
ly agreeable time. To make an ap-
pointment, please call 978/486-
3044x3 or email [minis-
ter@fculittle.org](mailto:minister@fculittle.org).

Music Director:

Molly Lozeau
music@fculittle.org

Molly can be reached via email

Church Office Administrator:

Laura Beltrami
office@fculittle.org

Sexton

Henry Whitcomb Jr.
sexton@fculittle.org

Henry can be reached via email
and/or his cell 978/273-0170

NOTE:

Church Officers

Treasurer:
treasurer@fculittle.org
Scott Dressel

Assistant Treasurer:
AssisTreas@fculittle.org
Sara Weeks

Clerk:
clerk@fculittle.org
Monica Pilman

Deacons:
Deacons@fculittle.org
*The Deacons oversee worship and
the pastoral and spiritual life of the
church.*

Prisl Dumka (Chair), Debbie Eston,
Louis Maussaro and Jon Welch

Standing Committee:
SC-chair@fculittle.org
*The Standing Committee manages
the business and organization of
the church.*

Deb Girard, Bob Williams, Mellisa
Baern, Mike Pilman, Betsy Read,
Joel Ross (Chair)

Other FCU Contacts

Lay Pastoral Ministers:
LayPastoralMinistry@fculittle.org
The Lay Ministers offer a listening
ear and pastoral attention to members
of the congregation.

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

Member-Reach Committee:
memberreach@fculittle.org
Laura Semple, Chair

Webmaster:
webmaster@fculittle.org
Leslie Gloyd

Communications Deadlines

Community Matters Notices
Every Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Printed in the Order of Service
each week and then distributed
on the FCU listserv.
announce@fculittle.org

The Bulletin

**1:00p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday
of each Month**
Next deadline:
Tuesday, July 22nd
at 1:00pm. Any articles sub-
mitted after that time will not
be included.

bulletin@fculittle.org

Stay in Contact with FCU

www.fculittle.org
First Church Unitarian
19 Foster Street
Littleton, MA 01460
office@fculittle.org
978/486-3044

FCU Community Listserv:

Join the church's listserv, to
get breaking news from our
community. Visit the following
address

[http://seven.pairlist.net/ma
ilman/listinfo/fcu](http://seven.pairlist.net/ma
ilman/listinfo/fcu) (you will
need to cut and paste this into
the address bar of your web
browser or visit the link on our
website under the "contact us"
section) and enroll. For infor-
mation, please email
office@fculittle.org.

FCU Facebook Page

FCU has a Facebook page.
Please check us out at
[http://www.facebook.com/
FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton](http://www.facebook.com/
FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton)
and, if you haven't done so al-
ready, please "Like" our page
and share it with others who
might be interested. If you have
any questions about this, please
feel free to reach out to the
Outreach Committee at
outreach@fculittle.org.



First Church Unitarian

19 Foster Street
Littleton, MA 01460

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For electronic copy, send an email to
office@fculittle.org

NO THANKS: If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or be on our mailing list, please check the box above and return to your mail carrier. We will pay the postage.



July 2014 Issue

***View our church Calendar at
<http://fculittle.org/calendar.php>***