



The Bulletin

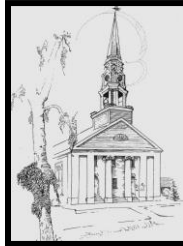


November 2014

bulletin@fculittle.org

In This Edition

| | |
|--|----|
| SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES | 1 |
| CHURCH BUSINESS | 2 |
| <i>Standing Committee</i> | 2 |
| <i>Finance Committee</i> | 2 |
| <i>Deacon News</i> | 3 |
| <i>Nominating Committee</i> | 3 |
| <i>Lay Pastoral Committee</i> | 4 |
| <i>Executive Team</i> | 4 |
| <i>Hospitality</i> | 5 |
| <i>Council on Social Justice</i> | 5 |
| <i>Process Consultation</i> | 5 |
| SPIRIT MATTERS | 6 |
| KID MATTER(S) | 7 |
| MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES..... | 8 |
| ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR..... | 9 |
| WOMENS ALLIANCE QUILT SHOW..... | 10 |
| STUFF TO DO AT FCU | 11 |
| <i>AEC</i> | 11 |
| <i>Speed Traveloge</i> | 11 |
| <i>Caring for our Aging Parents</i> | 12 |
| <i>Basic Goodness</i> | 12 |
| <i>Sacred Circle Dance</i> | 12 |
| <i>Women's Alliance Corner</i> | 12 |
| <i>Music</i> | 13 |
| <i>Story Slam</i> | 13 |
| <i>Littleton Council of Churches</i> | 13 |
| FCU IS SOCIALLY ACTIVE | 14 |
| <i>Loaves & Fishes</i> | 14 |
| <i>Share-the-Plate</i> | 14 |
| <i>Neighborhood Supper</i> | 14 |
| FCU - FYI..... | 15 |



Sunday Worship Services

Sunday Morning Services

November's theme is "Grace"

What does it mean to live a life of "Grace"?

November 2

Theme: Day of the Graceful Death

We commemorate Day of the Dead as we begin to explore our new theme of grace. What is grace? Is it only a theological concept that we UUs have been challenged by? Grace is hard to define yet recognizable (for some!) when it "graces" us. We will acknowledge our loved ones gracefully, as we also think through this concept.

November 9

Theme: Experiencing Grace

What is the experience of grace? How does grace happen? How is grace active in our lives? What is the almost indefinable quality which grace brings? Can we define grace or only - "point to" or give examples of - what it means? Let's explore and share together the meaning, the experience of grace in our daily lives.

November 16

Theme: A People of Grace

As we set about doing the important visioning work this weekend, the question arises if we will allow ourselves as we make plans to also allow space for grace. Being a "people of grace" asks us to be open, to let go of our precious and preferred plans, and accept the gift in whatever form it comes. We share our abundance today with our **Share the Plate** recipient *Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts and New Hampshire*.

November 23

Theme: Random Acts of Grace

Do we have the power as human beings to bestow on others the experience of grace? An invitation to create a random act of grace this Thanksgiving. This is also our annual multigenerational service to give thanks and it will include our cornbread and juice communion, where of course, we will say grace first!

November 23, 7pm: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Theme: Trusting in Our Abundance

Join Rev. Marta and Deacon Jon Welch for this annual service brought to you by the churches in the Littleton Council of Churches. This year the service will be held here at First Church Unitarian. Please bring a non-perishable item to create an overflowing cornucopia to be delivered to Loaves & Fishes.

November 30

Theme: (Re)claiming grace

Grace is typically a term associated with Christianity. Is there a way of understanding grace that applies more broadly? We will explore how living in grace can help us navigate our days and contemplate a deeper meaning for our lives.



Church Business

Standing Committee Report:

Your FCU Standing Committee has been exploring a new approach towards our leadership function. At each of our bimonthly meetings we are following our opening reading and "how is your heart?" check-in with an hour long discussion of some of the long range issues facing our church.

We have shared thoughts on volunteerism, on stewardship, on leadership and on the mission and vision of FCU. This stimulating discussion has been followed by an hour involved with some of the nitty-gritty details of the "business" of running this church. We have resolved to do much of this "business" on-line so we don't spend hours at our meetings.

We have also resolved to let the various committees of the church function optimally with our support. For example - the Building committee and the Personnel committee will be called upon to help us refine existing policies and to manage specific issues as they arise. It is our intention to spread the opportunity and responsibility for "running" FCU broadly as we feel that there is intrinsic spiritual value in serving this beloved community. Fulfilling any vision of FCU's future will require the stewardship and participation of all of us.

Joel Ross for the Standing Committee

Finance Committee

"FY15 pledge statements were mailed the week of October 20th and include pledge pay you will see a handwritten amount at the bottom of the letter. For any pledge questions, please contact Sara Weeks at AssisTreas@fculittle.org, or (978)263-0443."

Deacon Notes

November, 2014

I hope you all got to enjoy the October colors, especially the ones in our sanctuary on October 17th and October 18th. The Women's Alliance sponsored Quilt Show was spectacular. The colors were amazing but the stories were even better. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Judy White and Rachel Gallant for their leadership and passion for this project.

Now we are on to November with the theme of grace. Where do you see grace? I see it in the moments when I connect with my mom. Where do you feel it?

Grace also brings to mind a wonderful restaurant in Portland, ME. It is housed in a beautiful old church with gorgeous architecture, stained glass windows, pews that have been reworked; and the kitchen is where the altar had been. I have had the pleasure of having two wonderful meals at Grace. They were nights to remember.

I know we will find moments of grace on the weekend of November 14th, 15th, and 16th as we work on sharing our vision and shaping our new vision statement. If you haven't sign up yet, please do, we want to hear all your voices.

Most of you know how proud I am of the AEC program, COAP (Caring for Our Aging Parents). This group has been a wonderful support for many of us. AEC is happy to announce that they are adding a second night each month. We already meet on the first Monday evening of each month and now we will be meeting on the third Tuesday evening as well. If you are having the burden/privilege of caring for an aging parent, please know you are welcomed to join us for one night or many.

Do you remember our September promises? You can find them on the bulletin board on top of the piano in the vestry. In fact, as the year progresses these promises will change because I have at least enough index cards from our Homecoming Service to fill two more bulletin boards. So, keep a look out. If you see the pattern of the cards change it's because they have.

Speaking of bulletin boards, the Deacons will be updating their bulletin board each month. We will have the theme of the month in bold letters and a poem or saying or two reflecting on the theme. If you have a special quote or poem keeping with the theme please add it to ours.

Remember we are hosting the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service on November 23rd at 7 PM. It would be wonderful to see you there.

Peace, Prisl Dumka, for the Deacons

Nominating News

The Nominating Committee has six members serving a two year term. Current members are: Phyllis Terrey, Charlie Weeks, Martha Childs, Ron Willett, Callie Henriques and Larry Kaylor. Our official charge is to produce a set of candidates for all positions to be filled at the Annual Meeting. Those positions are: Standing Committee (6), Moderator (1), Clerk (1), Treasurer (1) and Assistant Treasurer (1), Auditor (1), Board of Trustees (3), Board of Deacons (4). According to our bylaws, these folks are the Officers of the Church and therefore must be elected by the membership of FCU. We are thankful for the commitment of those willing to serve in this capacity. Our plan is to reach out early and often to inform you about the leadership opportunities coming up as well as the purpose and purview thereof. And we look forward to hearing from you – what are your questions, interests or talents?

Martha Childs for the Nominating Committee

Lay Pastoral Ministry

Passing of Torches

Over the past year, several folks have completed their service as Lay Pastoral Ministers. Special thanks to Linda Bracco who has served since the inception of this ministry over a decade ago. Linda inspired others of the group and preserved the legacy of Lay Ministry. Others who have given years of service include Bill Duston, Barbara Whitcomb, Carole Tillis, Larry Kaylor, Anna Fadden, and Phyllis Terrey.

We welcome new members, Jeanne Anthony, Patti Sardella, and Thom Bentley, joining Claire Farrell, Jim Nehring, and David Butz as Lay Pastoral Ministers.

“If you could use a listening ear ...”

Executive Team: Crafting a Vision for FCU and Discerning Its Mission

“Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your heart.

Who looks outside, dreams;

Who looks inside, awakes.”

Carl Jung

Visioning the Future

It is time for us to look into our hearts. It is time for us to dream. It is time for us to awake.

On November 15th, we will be gathering in small groups to look into our hearts, dream about our future, and awake our passions.

What is your vision for the future of FCU? We want to hear your voice.

If you have signed up for one of the workshops, thank you. If you haven't, there is still time to do so. You can sign up for a workshop either from 9AM to 12:30PM, 1:30PM to 5:00PM or 6:00PM to 9:30PM. Sign-up sheets are in the Vestry or just let Mike or I know that you'd like to attend. And please let us know if you need childcare.

With much gratitude, our new Vision Statement will be shared at our Thanksgiving Worship Service on November 23rd.

Remember, we want to hear all your voices.

Prisl Dumka for
The Executive Team and Rev. Marta

Sunday Hospitality -- WOW!

What a great start to the year! Within the first couple of weeks, all of the hospitality slots through mid-November were filled! Thanks to everyone who signed up to bring flowers, usher, and set up or clean up refreshments. Your generosity allows us to carry on the tradition of fellowship at our Sunday services.

It is now time to fill the openings through the holidays. Please check your calendar and stop by the hospitality board soon. Let's see if we can continue the great start we had and fill in all the openings through the end of January in the next couple of weeks. Remember: This is one of the easiest ways to demonstrate your stewardship of our church. And I thank you.

Theresa Catino

Council on Social Justice: Information Session

What do we do? What should we do?

An information session for all FCU Members

-> **Hey, did you even know we existed or that we fund task forces and other social justice projects?** <-

We will share information on what we have accomplished in the past, and explore thoughts about what we should focus on for 2014-2015.

For instance, Martin Luther King Day, Jobs not Jail, Immigration, Head Start, Housing, Hunger, Climate . . .

What are YOUR deep concerns?

Also we'll be electing a new chairman.....

Join us in the Vestry on Sunday, November 2nd at 1:00 PM for this conversation, along with fruit and goodies.

Process Consultation

If your committee gets bogged down in communication issues, has trouble airing and resolving grievances constructively, gets stuck around decision-making processes, wants to think more outside the box, wants help in resolving any interpersonal issues, or simply wants someone to observe one of your meetings and make suggestions for increasing your effectiveness, developing leadership and facilitation skills and achieving your objectives...

Consider me a resource!

Niela Miller, M.S. Ed/Communications

Spirit Matters

Grace...

Well, the church year is off and running and what a busy hive of activity we have become! November is proving to be no exception either, so perhaps it is a good time to welcome our new theme of grace. Just saying the word feels like a breath of fresh air; a momentary respite; an unearned smile curling up on my lips. When our lives are busy and overscheduled, grace steps in to stop us, mostly for good. An exercise one of the Soul Matters participants might engage in this month involves this: *Give Your Schedule over to Grace*: Put your To-Do List down for a day. Ignore your schedule. Commit to giving up all plans or expectations. Simply spend the day letting grace guide your agenda. Treat it as an experiment, testing the hypothesis that grace and giftedness is all around and wants to lure you in. I invite you to consider trying it for yourself.

November is a big month for us since we will be working on a new vision statement. If you haven't signed up yet for *one* of the three workshops on Nov. 15, I invite you to do so. We mean it when we say that every voice is important. On the success of the model we used five years ago, we will use it again, especially since quite possibly it will allow space for grace to enter and guide the way. For the majority of the congregation it will only involve three and a half hours of your time. I hope you can see your way to this sacred conversation.

This year FCU will be hosting the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23 at 7pm. A joyous occasion, the Deacons and I are looking forward to seeing a good FCU turnout. Jon Welch is our speaker and we are inviting everyone (from all five churches!) to bring a non-perishable item for the cornucopia we will create and then deliver to Loaves and Fishes.

In living a life of "Grace" let us all be 'grace-watchers', keeping our eyes and hearts open to its experience, and 'grace-givers' finding a way, opportunity, chance to bestow a random act of grace anonymously to a fellow congregant of any age group. Secret smiles are just as delicious as known ones.

Let the Grace begin...

Love,

Rev. Marta



KIDS MATTER(S)

KIDS MATTER(S)

Spiritual Development for Children and Youth
(and those who care about them)

"GRACE"

Grace who? Of course that is an old joke but it is always the first thing that comes to my mind when I hear the word. Perhaps that is because I have never been able to satisfactorily understand just what grace means. Since this is the theme for this month, I decided to make another attempt at understanding. I did some research, reading, and thinking.

One definition from a religious perspective is: "The infinite love, mercy, favor, and goodwill shown to humankind by God." Another, which I find more consistent with my thinking is "a generosity of spirit: a capacity to tolerate, accommodate, or forgive." But then I found many more descriptions of grace: some common threads are: openness, receptiveness, emptiness, suffering, love, compassion, mercy, gratitude, forgiveness, unsought, unearned, serendipitous, blessing.

And my two favorite quotes (which seem to be opposites and yet somehow together they bring a completeness of understanding to me):

"Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason." Pope Francis

"Rain is grace; rain is the sky descending to the earth; without rain, there would be no life."
John Updike

I think I have felt something akin to grace in those moments when my mind is quiet and I am simply open to my surroundings, to the universe, to the light both within and without. Some unforeseen insight or occurrence comes with startling clarity like a cleansing rain. It becomes part of me, something I return to again and again.

And of course, grace is what some say before a meal perhaps because this is a special time when we open ourselves to that feeling of gratitude for all that we have, for blessings unbidden. Perhaps, saying grace together is a place to begin to share the feeling of grace with our children. Thanksgiving seems the perfect opportunity. Here is one possibility from the Zuni people:

"So long as we enjoy the light of day, may we greet one another with love.

"So long as we enjoy the light of day, may we pray for one another."

With love and grace,

Vicki Merriam, Director of Spiritual Development for Children and Youth

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH – NOVEMBER

11/2 – "Day of the Dead" worship service: please encourage your children and youth to bring something for the altar we will all create, something that reminds them of a person or animal that has died but lives on in their memory.

11/2 & 11/9 – regular classes continue

11/16 – Chapel Sunday, the Women's Alliance will do some crafting with the children.

11/23 – Thanksgiving multigenerational worship for all.

11/30 – No regular groups; game day for all ages.

OWL parent meetings: Thursday, 11/2 & 11/13, 7:00-9:00 PM

Multicultural Ministries Committee

Fodder

Please watch the following video, a real-life example, illuminating the concepts of white privilege and micro-aggressions. Notice the woman's description of her own inner dialogue, which alludes to extensive experience with similar situations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7oDy7-aV1o>

MMC Worship Service

MMC will offer the Nov. 9th service. We will plan to engage all of us in thoughts and reflections about how we experience and think about Grace in our daily lives.

Beloved Conversations

The MMC Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity program will be offered again early next year. If you are interested in participating in this program or would like to know more about it, please speak with Caroline Marvin or Betsy Read or members of the MMC.

On October 25th, Beloved Conversations alum gathered to test-run a new workshop developed by Neila Miller, Caroline Marvin and Mark Hicks. Please stay tuned for updates about the evolving curriculum.

Current Events

On October 24th, MMC members gathered for a potluck and viewing of "Seven Last Words: Strange Fruit Speaks", a live streamed event from Princeton Seminary. The title is an allusion to the Seven Last Words of Jesus spoken from the cross, but changed to the actual last words of individuals killed by police or vigilantes. It is a call for remembrance, advocacy, and justice.

Multicultural Film and Discussion Series

On October 25th, MMC offered a timely viewing of "Fruitvale Station", the dramatic rendering of the final hours of Oscar Grant, before he was shot by San Francisco transit police on New Year's Day in 2009.

Plan now to see ***Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise Your Voice*** on Saturday, December 6, at 7 PM in the Vestry. This film, about the *a cappella*, vocal ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock, is a riveting cinematic portrait of the world renowned group's 30th year as it takes its breathtaking sound and political message to a changing America. No other ensemble has so successfully distilled the essence of the musical legacy of African Americans.

Littleton Country Fair 2014 Final Report

Thanks be to you, all you wonderful members of our church community, for once again putting on a great Country Fair! One of the security officers for the Fair at day's end told me that he had never seen such a happy well-coordinated team in his life as those of us who put on the Fair this year!

The final financial report is now ready. The 2014 Fair grossed 13,496.01 dollars, had 2,665.67 dollars in expenses, paid 10% of our net to the Littleton Park and Recreation Department's Christmas Gifts Fund for the children of Littleton, and ended up making our church (drum roll please!) 9,747.31 dollars. For the budget-watchers among us, this is 1,252.69 dollars less than the 11,000 dollars our Fair was budgeted to make this fiscal year.

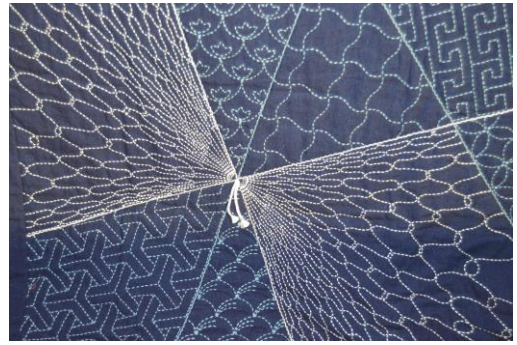
Considering that the weather was cold and cloudy, the Fair was pushed back a week to make room for the Littleton 300th celebration, the various obstacles that needed to be overcome or dealt with or just lived with due to the Littleton 300th celebration, and that we had a lot of changes in key Fair leadership positions this year, I think we did really well.

Also on the good side, the Fair this year had no security issues, no injuries, and while two iPhones and other nice things were lost, they were all found again in the end. Again, thank you all very much for another wonderful Littleton Community outreach event.

--- Monica Pilman, Fair Committee Chair



Women's Alliance Littleton Tercentenary Quilt Show October 17-18: Thanks to all the volunteers and visitors the Quilt Show was quite a success! Link to the video of the show:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz_ZA2iJwpOSX1JkcDRLZk4tbms/view?usp=sharing



Photos courtesy of Rev. M. Valentin



Thoughts on the Quilt Show

Who would have realized the interest a Quilt Show would muster? Last weekend, as part of the Littleton Tercentennial Celebration the Women's Alliance sponsored a quilt show featuring historic, antique, and modern quilts.

The Sanctuary was transformed by the color, form and intricacy of the over one hundred quilts on display.

The unifying factor was that each quilt told a story and those stories were available to be read by each visitor

Amazingly enough the 200 visitors were as divergent as the quilts. I witnessed several three generation families as well as friends from many ages, interests, and affiliations.

The vestry served as an oasis to recharge, share thoughts, purchase hand made crafts and or food as well as support the SANS raffle and the Historical Society. All in all, it was a multi-generational event benefitting the Tercentennial Committee, FCU, and The Women's Alliance. Huge thanks to the indefatigable Judy White and Rachel Gallant and their hoard of volunteers who allowed Littleton to celebrate the greater community.



By Gwen MacLearn

Virtual Candles of Caring



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

Candles of sorrow

Our healing thoughts and prayers go out to:

Jon Welch's stepfather Russell, liver with cancer

Marney Stoumbelis' cousin Carole in hospice

Rich Lombardy's aunt, lung cancer

Niela Miller's friend Fred Holmes, bad fall

Harry Palmer Wells, eye afflictions

All the Ebola suffers, and caregivers

Carole Tillis, home from hospital

Pam Ross' stepdad at the loss of his third child

Candles of celebration

We celebrate with

Patti Sardella's son, David William

Linda Bracco's new grandson, Harrison Clark

Jon Welch's mother's 90th birthday

Barbara Whitcombs' grandson's

Ben's 16th birthday

Laura Semple's niece Molly

Deb Girard and Lynn Courtney's completion of Avon walk

Nick Lombardy's 18th birthday

Women's Alliance's successful Quilt Show

Our thoughts of courage and encouragement go out to

Betsy Read's son Eliot, struggling school

Bobbie Dressel's parents, failing health

Bobbie Dressel's relative Jenna

Stuff to Do at FCU

TECHNOLOGY, FILMS, BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY, HUMOR, DANCE, POETRY, TRAVEL, ENERGY, SUPPORT

All of these topics will be AEC events this year! So, watch this space and check out the order of service and church calendar. Any questions? Contact AEC@FCUlittle.org

Have you been on a trip that you are dying to tell others about? AEC will give you a chance to share your exciting travel experiences with your church community. We are planning to use the speed dating model and have about 8-10 people showing a brief 5 minute presentation on a special trip. That way people can walk around and hear about all different places. If you are interested in doing a presentation, contact AEC@FCUlittle.org.

We haven't chosen a date yet but this could be a fun event for mid-winter when we are all thinking of vacation.

The Adult Enrichment Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to plants for our Plant Exchange. We had some very happy recipients of your bounty. This event adds to our church's visibility and community good will so we all benefit.

The Executive Team invites all to come and help us celebrate 20 years of Fire House Coffee Houses on the Friday November 7th, 7-9 PM,. Bring your CDs from your favorite concert artists. Please contact Mike Pilman if you have questions.

Speed Travelogue

Coming Sunday, March 22 from 11:30-1:00 pm

Have you been on a trip that you are dying to tell others about? AEC will give you a chance to share your exciting travel experiences with your church community. We are planning to use the speed dating model and have about 8-10 people showing a brief 5 minute presentation on a special trip. That way people can walk around and hear about all different places. This should be a fun event for the end-of-winter doldrums when we are all thinking of vacation.

If you are interested in doing a presentation, contact AEC@FCUlittle.org.

Caring for Our Aging Parents (COAP)
Monday, Nov 3, 7-9pm in the Alliance Room
Tuesday, Nov 18, 7-9 pm in the alliance Room

The COAP Group will now be meeting twice a month. So many of us are dealing with issues related to caring for aging parents and we want as many folks as possible to be able to attend this valuable support group. So, we have decided to meet twice a month--the first Monday of the month and the third Tuesday of the month. We hope this will make the group available to more people. Come to one or both meetings, whatever suits your needs. Keep in mind that this is a support group with no agenda or goals or minutes. It's for all of us to have an opportunity to share.

Next meetings are: Monday, November 3 and Tuesday, November 18 from 7-9 in the Alliance Room. For more info contact: COAP@fculittle.org

Basic Goodness with Pema Chodron
Saturday, November 22 from 7-9 pm in the Vestry

You are fundamentally open-minded, open-hearted, worthy, and good. But maybe you've forgotten that. Through meditation, teachings, and dialogue Pema Chödrön will help you remember your basic goodness.

Come and view selected sections from a full weekend retreat give by Pema Chodron at the end of September 2014. This is a very relaxed setting and you will feel refreshed and renewed afterwards.

Sacred Circle Dance
Friday Nov. 14 in the Vestry

Now comes a special time of Thanksgiving. With easy dances we express and experience our gratitude in physical, mental, and emotional ways. Join us for relaxing renewal for mind-body-spirit equilibrium. We also have fun and build community.

The Community Circle meets 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (easier dances), with more challenging dances at 6:00. Don't forget your water bottle and a willing attitude. **For more info e-mail** Circle@fculittle.org



Women's Alliance Corner:

In October members of the Alliance attended the Bach's Lunch at Indian Hill. After a brown bag lunch, the concert was *String trios by Dvorak, Dohnanyi, and Kodaly.*

The next meeting of the Alliance is November 15th at 11:00. The business meeting will be followed by lunch and crafting for the Holiday Bazaar.

Music

"Second Sunday Hymn Sing"

Be a part of a new tradition in musical fellowship! On the second Sunday of each month, we welcome you to gather in the sanctuary around the piano at 9:50am before the service begins to learn hymns from our hymnals. Requests welcome!

Story Slam

A Story Slam will be held at the Framingham UU Church on Saturday, Nov. 8, 6 to 9 pm, to benefit UU Mass Action Network, the activist arm of Massachusetts Unitarians. The fun event offers, food, fun and stories while benefiting our UU value of justice. See more here: <http://www.uumassaction.org/> under EVENTS. Susan Tordella will be going if you want to join her table, email susan.tordella@gmail.com. The audience will score each of the six pre-chosen story tellers. The theme of the night is Stories of Courage.

Littleton Council of Churches

The Littleton Council of Churches (LCOC) exists to help the constituent churches carry out their united activities, and support each other's efforts, to advance the spiritual, moral and social welfare of the community. The 5 churches also come together each year at Thanksgiving time to create an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. On Sunday, November 23rd at 7 pm FCU will host and this year's theme is "Trusting in Our Abundance". Deacon, Jon Welch will speak as will lay representatives from First Baptist Church, the Congregational Church of Littleton, St. Anne Catholic Church and The Littleton Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Voices from the 5 choirs will participate as well. We will build an abundant cornucopia of non-perishable donations to be given to Loaves and Fishes. Fellowship after the service will include delicious cookies. Please plan to attend this wonderful service and donate a non-perishable item. I'm sure Jon and others participating in the service would very much like to see you there.

Looking ahead to December:

- Saturday, Dec 6th 7 pm - LCOC Community Christmas Concert at the Latter-day Saints church
- Thursday, Dec 4th 5-8 pm - FCU's night during the LCOC Food Drive at Donelan's - please volunteer to help during this time by sending an email to lcoc@fculittle.org
- Information about December's Holiday Star program is being finalized will be in Community Matters and emailed to the list serve.

You can reach the FCU representatives to the Littleton Council of Churches at lcoc@fculittle.org. This year's lay representatives are: Jeanne Anthony, Debbie Eston and Cindy Heiland. We welcome your questions and suggestions. If you would like to serve as a representative this year please let us know.

~Debbie Eston, for the FCU representatives to the Littleton Council of Churches



FCU is Socially Active

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (L&F)

Most Needed Items

- Cereal
- Hearty Soups
- Canned White Tuna
- Canned Pasta/Canned Chile
- Helpers and Rice Sides
- Canned Vegetables
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Tomato Paste/Whole Tomatoes
- Crackers/Snacks
- Pasta -Ziti/Rotini/Shells/Rigatoni
- Pasta Sauce
- Depends (Lg & XL sizes)
- Feminine Care Products
- Toothpaste & Tooth Brush
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant

Loaves & Fishes exists as a mission of love and faith to provide food and temporary support services to residents of Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley, and advocates for changes by its clients that will promote independence and self-reliance. If you have any questions please contact CSJ@fculittle.org.

Social Justice SOS

Do you care deeply about Justice in this world? Do you want FCU to be more active in this arena? The Council on Social Justice (CSJ) has the tools and some funds to make this happen--we just need extra energy and new leadership! We share information about happenings in the UU community, and financially support and facilitate FCU activities--from single person one-shot events to long-running task forces. To read a complete description of the CSJ, see

<http://www.fculittle.org/socialjustice.php> and email csj@fculittle.org, or contact Alice Schafer (alice-schafer@comcast.net, 978-263-5779), Kris Ersland (Kersland1@gmail.com, 978-486-0574) or Cindy Heiland (Cgheiland@me.com, 978-263-7269)

Share-the-Plate

Nominate your national charity!

On the third Sunday of each month, a national charity will receive all undesignated offerings and checks made out to the charity as a contribution from the First Church Unitarian congregation. You can nominate your national charity as a FCU Share the Plate recipient! Just send the name to STP@FCUlittle.org.

On Sunday, October 19th, FCU contributed \$551.35 to OpenDoor Housing Fund. Thank you so much for your support!

The Deacons are happy to announce that the Share the Plate recipient for November 16th is the Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. "Their mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health". "Their vision is a world without Alzheimer's." Seeing November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month we thought it a fitting recipient. Please plan to give generously to this worthy cause on November 16th.

Neighborhood Supper: *Neighborhood Supper is on hiatus until the renovations at the Congregational Church are finished, probably early next year.*

FYI - FCU Church Staff

Minister:

Rev. Marta Valentín
minister@fculittle.org

Minister Office hours:

Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2-4pm and by appointment.

Thursday and Saturday are sermon preparation and writing days.

Monday is Rev. Marta's Sabbath day.

In an emergency Rev. Marta can be reached on her cellphone: 617.513.2075

Director of Spritual Development:

Vicki Merriam
dsd@fculittle.org
Vicki can be reached via email

Music Director:

Molly Lozeau
music@fculittle.org
Molly can be reached via email

Church Office Administrator:

Laura Beltrami
office@fculittle.org
Laura can be reached via email or telephone 978-486-3044

Admin office hours:
Tues though Fri 9:30am – 2:30pm

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:
Anna Fadden (Team Leader), David Butz, Anna Fadden, Jeanne Anthony, Patti Sardella, Claire Farrell, Jim Nehring, Phyllis Terrey

Member-Reach Committee:
memberreach@fculittle.org
Andy Leyenaar, 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, November 18th at 1:00pm. Any articles submitted 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/mailman/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 information, please email **office@fculittle.org**.

FCU Facebook Page

FCU has a Facebook page. Please check us out at **http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton** and, if you haven't done so already, 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.



November 2014 Issue

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