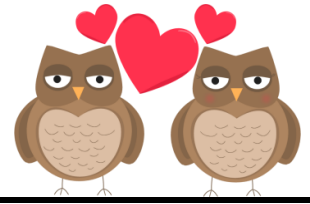


# The Bulletin



February 2015

bulletin@fculittle.org

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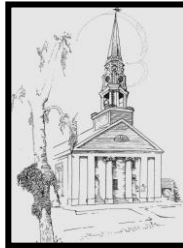
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## Sunday Worship Services

### Sunday Morning Services

February's theme is "FAITH"

February takes us on a journey as we look at the question: "What does it mean to be a people of faith?" I am not sure how it happened, but somehow I've been asking the wrong question and I do believe it makes a difference! I realized during the Deacons meeting when Jon Welch said he was having a hard time answering the question: What does it mean to live a life of faith?", because he didn't particularly subscribed to that concept as it is traditionally held. For the rest of the year with every new theme the question will be: "What does it mean to be a people of \_\_\_\_\_?"

"Faith" will be an interesting and challenging theme to play with given our theological diversity, but I am up for it. Are you? We will explore "faithful loving", atheism/agnosticism, and the intersection of Unitarianism, Judaism, and Islam. For now I'll offer this quote from William Sloane Coffin: "I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, then you grow wings." How is life calling you to leap?

And please don't forget on **February 15** we share our abundance through our **Share the Plate** ministry! This month's recipient is the **Melanoma Foundation**. You can read more about them on page 10. As always, *thank you* for your continued generosity that promotes our wonderful FCU ministries!

**NEW! NEW! NEW!**

### Music and Musings Worship Service

Join us as we embark on a Unitarian Universalist exploration of life's big themes! We gather every fourth Friday and you'll have to *show* up to see *where* in the building we are, and *what* we're up to! It's a new way of exploring our monthly worship theme through any number of mediums designed to open our hearts even as we ponder deeply. Our next gathering is **Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. Afterwards we will gather for further chit chat over yummy dessert! *Join us and bring a friend or two!*

### Historical Fact:

The oil painting of Edmund Foster in the Alliance Room was painted by Ethan Allen Greenwood at Harvard in 1812.  
Joyce Williams

## Spirit Matters

Well, the New Year at FCU is off to great start! We had a very busy January and it appears the pace will not let up anytime soon. February's love fest will keep the fires warm in all of our hearts.

In January we introduced our new worship service "**Music and Musings**". Subtitled *A Unitarian Universalist Exploration of Life's Big Themes*, we began by exploring our January worship theme "integrity" and looking at the question: What does it mean to be a people of integrity? We arrived at the place that if we were to live as people of integrity with a desire to remain "whole," we must learn how to continually forgive ourselves. You can't have one without the other. Afterward we gathered in the vestry for yummy dessert and continued conversation about living a life of integrity. It was an intimate, rich, and honest community building time. I want to thank Patti Sardella and Mike McKendry for sharing their beautiful music with us.

Each month we will explore the worship theme in a variety of ways so that from one month to the next it can be different, with no set order of service, no formal offering (only the "love" kind!) and any combination of recorded and live music; readings; poetry; art; dance; drumming; and writing. We may even move it to different spaces in the church depending on what the theme is. You'll just have to come and find out where we are and what we're up to! The next service will be on **Friday February 27 at 7:30pm.**

We also had a very successful first attempt at what was called "**A Community Dialogue: Beyond Ferguson**". The sanctuary was full, six area police chiefs joined us and we engaged in what we hope will be continued conversation about community policing in our area. A great big thanks goes to the core team: Brian Tarbox, Amy Osenar, Lauren Forney, Susan Tordella Williams (from Council of Social Justice, who co-sponsored), and the Multicultural Ministries (the other sponsors). Cerridwen joined us midstream and together we put together an opportunity for area folks to engage in an honest dialogue. There will be a debriefing as we come together to figure out what our next steps will be as there was a sense from the gathered community that more of these opportunities are needed. Many FCUers expressed a genuine "proudness" for the fact that our church community has been the one to go down this important path. In particular during the month when we were discussing being a people of integrity. Stay tuned for what's coming next.

In the meantime, see you in church!

Love,

*Rev. Marta*



## **Church Business**

### **Deacon Notes – February 2015**

I love the themes of the month. I love how one blends into the other.....

I am writing this the morning after the Community Dialogue-Beyond Ferguson. Last night after coming home from that dialogue I came across this quote from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." I think that is exactly what we did last night.

There are so many people to thank. Brian Tarbox and Amy Osenar, I thank you for sharing your leadership, passion, integrity and faith. Thank you to the Police Chiefs of Littleton, Groton, Carlisle, Boxboro, Ayer and Acton for saying "yes" to the invitation and taking this step with us. I have faith that this was only the first step.

I'm also pleased that so many of you came to our Church Council Meeting. I'd like to thank Phyllis Terrey for leading us on an exploration of leadership. Thank you too to Mike Pilman and Debbie Eston for leading us in continuing to unpack our newly drafted Vision Statement.

At the Deacon's meeting in January, we spent a lot of time talking about summer here at FCU. Have you ever considered leading a Soulful Sundown Service? Now is your chance. Please talk with either me, Jon or Debbie about your ideas for a service.

Peace,  
Prisl Dumka, for the Deacons

### **The Committee on Ministries**

The Committee on Ministries is designed to assess and support the heartbeat of ministries within our Congregation - from how the members of the Congregation take care of each other while fulfilling their ministries, to how the Minister is serving the Congregation; with the ultimate purpose of strengthening the quality of ministries within the Congregation.

It has been our practice to invite folks to join us to continue to develop relationships. And please feel free to chat with us anytime! The members of the Committee on Ministries are Kris Erslund, Alan Bell, Jim Barisano, Phyllis Terrey, and Araya Fast.

### **Lay Pastoral Ministry**

#### *LIGHTING A CANDLE*

Respectful of countless Buddhas,  
I calmly light this candle,  
brightening the face of the Earth.

"In India and other Asian countries, we offer light, sound, smell and taste to the figures on the altar or shrine. We usually have a candle, some flowers, a bowl of fruit, and a stick of incense. As we light the candle mindfully, the veils of ignorance and forgetfulness naturally dissolve, and the Earth herself comes light." Thich Nhat Hanh



## KID'S MATTER(S)

### "Teaching Faith"

While chatting with a neighbor last fall we got onto the topic of religion. She knew I was involved in religious education and wanted to know more about my "faith". I admitted that I struggled with the concept. Somewhat aghast she said, "How can you teach religion if you don't have faith? I mumbled some inadequate response and tried to change the subject. She suggested I read Hebrews for the answer and we moved on.

Her question was provocative and worrisome for me. I took a look at Hebrews which does talk a lot about faith, just not my faith. One verse, though, caught my eye: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (11:1)

Hope and faith, faith and hope. The two concepts I have the most trouble distinguishing between. We put them together so often that they seem interchangeable. They are two thirds of the primary Christian "theological virtues" along with Charity. "Have faith," we say. "We can only hope," we say. Having given these concepts a lot of thought over many years, I have a personal understanding of their meaning in my life. I have faith, it is just different from my neighbor's.

I have faith in all of creation, the whole of the universe, and the processes of nature. I can not know how it all began or how it might proceed but I am sure that it will endure as it should. But I have little evidence that this will be so.

However, the substance of my hopes for humanity and a future that will bring peace and justice for all is not based in faith but in action. It is only by acting on our hopes that they will be realized.

So, back to her question, "How can I teach religious education if I do not have faith?"

- I teach because I have faith that our children will grow in their own faith whatever it may be.
- I teach because I hope I can encourage them to explore freely for themselves and with others to decide what faith means to them.
- I teach because this is an action to which hope calls me.
- I teach because I have faith in the substance of things I hope for.
- I teach because the children are my only evidence that the future is assured.

In faith,

Vicki Merriam, Director of Spiritual Development for Children and Youth

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH – February

2/1 & 2/8 – Regular classes

2/15 – Multigenerational Worship

2/22 – Chapel Sunday

## **The Stewardship Team:**

Get your calendars out and save Saturday, March 7th at 6:00 PM for our Annual Stewardship Dinner. As has become our tradition, you will be served a wonder meal and share an evening reveling in our abundance. There are always surprises included!

We hope that you will be able to join us.

Deb Girard, for the Stewardship Team

## **Multicultural Ministries Committee:**

Watch *Every Mother's Son* online:

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/everymothersson/full.php#.VJBpPSfsCnc>

This 54-minute POV documentary profiles three New York mothers--a Puerto Rican woman from the Bronx, a West African woman who relocated to New York, and a Jewish woman from Long Island—who unexpectedly find themselves united to seek justice and transform their grief into an opportunity for profound social change after the deaths of their sons who were shot by police.

### **MULTICULTURAL FILM AND DISCUSSION SERIES**

Saturday, February 28 ~ 7 PM ~ in the vestry

"Dear White People"

A satire that follows the stories of four black students at an Ivy League college where a riot breaks out over a popular 'African American' themed party thrown by white students. With tongue planted firmly in cheek, the film explores racial identity in 'post-racial' America while weaving a universal story of forging one's unique path in the world.

*Critics Consensus: Dear White People adds a welcome new voice to cinema's oft-neglected discussion of race, tackling its timely themes with intelligence, honesty, and gratifyingly sharp wit.*

### **Beloved Conversations**

Stay tuned for information on the MMC Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity program. 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.

### **March 8, 2015—Selma Sunday**

The MMC is planning a service that you won't want to miss to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March.



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

**Candles of sorrow**

Our condolences go out to:

- ✠ Amy Osenar, on the death of her cousin's husband
- ✠ Joel & Pam Ross, on the loss of their friend Mike Billian
- ✠ Emily Welch on the loss of Uncle Wendell
- ✠ To all those who named loved ones at Remembrance Service
- ✠ Louis Massauro, at the loss of Papa Nick
- ✠ Lynn Courtney, at the loss of baby by extended family member

Our healing thoughts and prayers go out to:

- ✠ Anna Fadden, as she heals
- ✠ Julian Poyner, and the entire family

**Candles of celebration**

We celebrate with

- ✠ For Dayle Welch's safe return from East Africa
- ✠ Nancy Bruns on her new home and her birthday
- ✠ To all those named in Welcome Service
- ✠ Niela Miller, on the birth of her great-granddaughter
- ✠ Adam Leyenaar, on passing his college placement test
- ✠ Bob Williams, on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ✠ Niela Miller on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ✠ Louis Massauro on his ?? birthday

Our thoughts of courage and encouragement go out to

- ✠ The Britton Family
- ✠ Lauren and Lisa Forney
- ✠ Anna Fadden, as she begins new job search
- ✠ Melissa Baern, as her family discovery journey continues
- ✠ Deborah Niles, as her son continues his sobriety

**Going on Around FCU:**

**Speed Travelogue**

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, Feb 2, 7-9pm in the Alliance Room

Tuesday, Feb, 17, 7-9 pm in the Alliance Room

The COAP Group is now meeting twice a month. This has grown into a close, supportive group for those of us are dealing with issues related to caring for aging parents. Come to one or both meetings, whatever suits your needs. Keep in mind that this is truly a support group with no agenda or goals or minutes.

For more info contact: [COAP@fculittle.org](mailto:COAP@fculittle.org)

**Icons of the Fifties Family Night!**

Saturday March 21 from 7-9 pm

Best TV Shows of the 1950s.

The 1950s were the Golden Age of television. Before viewing habits fractured into hundreds of choices, Americans gathered around a single TV set to watch as this new medium took hold and became an integral part of our culture—and a reflection of it as well. Join us as we peruse a few seminal shows and discuss what they reveal about this iconic era. Bring the kids as this will be fun opportunity to have our younger folks get a view of how things used to be. Fresh popcorn!!



**Camping:**

Believe it or not it is time to think about summertime camping. Our annual FCU camping weekend will start on Friday, August 21. Reserve America allows you to reserve a campsite 6 months in advance. This year we will be going to Otter River

State Park in Baldwinville MA. Call Joel or Pam Ross for information and mark your calendars for February 21 to make your reservation. We have other camping dates in mind with FCU friends. We would love to have you join us.

Joel Ross



## Sacred Circle Winter Day Dance

Feb. 7, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**In the Vestry, with break for lunch**

Our annual circle that's longer than usual, it's a chance to GO DEEPER in the dance and also a great time to BEGIN circle dance. A variety of guest teachers will lead a mix of traditional and choreographed dances. NO experience is needed, all dances are taught. If you can walk and keep time to music, you're a circle dancer.

We begin at 10 a.m., break for bring-your-own lunch (bottled water provided), and dance until 4:00 p.m. Stay as long as you wish. Bring your water bottle and a willing spirit.

**For more info e-mail** [Circle@fculittle.org](mailto:Circle@fculittle.org)

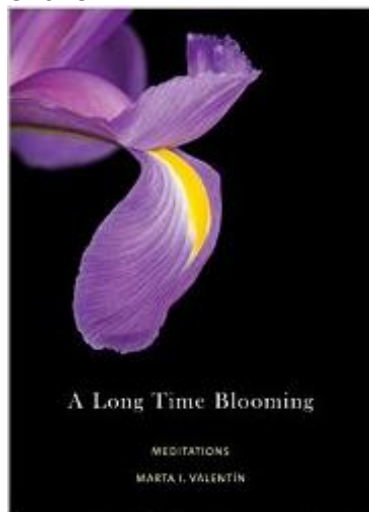
### **The Parent Support-ish Group:**

The Parent Support-ish Group invites you to survive the February doldrums by enjoying an afternoon of playing. On Sunday, February 22nd, everyone is invited to go sledding on the hill behind the library then join back at the church for hot drinks and snacks. If weather does not cooperate, the alternative is to go stay at the church for games and enjoy snacks. The details: Bring snow gear, sleds and a quick lunch to church. After service we snack, dress and carpool to the Littleton library. (Yes, it is pretty much across the street...) Gather back at the church around 2:00 for snacks hot drinks. Feel free to discuss this emerging plan with the Linda Wells, Susan Palmer, Brian and Caprice Tarbox or Melissa Baern.

The Parent Support-ish Group will hold our monthly get together On Sunday February 15th. In this format the children are at one location with sitters and the parents are somewhere else entirely. (Ah, what a shame!) We meet between 3:00 – 5:00 and each family chips in \$20.00 for the sitters. The exact location is to be determined. The group usually consists of a combination of Tarbox's, Wells/Palmer's, and Baern's. Contact any of us for more information. We don't mean to be secretive, we just can't get our ducks lined up before the bulletin deadline.

## **A Long Time Blooming**

Have you had a chance to read Rev. Marta's new book, A Long Time Blooming? If you didn't have a chance to pick up a copy at her poetry reading at the Women's Alliance meeting in January, it's not too late. Please contact Kris Erslund at [kersland1@gmail.com](mailto:kersland1@gmail.com) or see her at church.



### **Book Description**

Publication Date: **September 23, 2014**

In the 2014 UUA meditation manual, Marta I. Valentin reflects on the spiritual dimensions of her intersecting identities as a Latina, lesbian, feminist, God-worshipping Unitarian Universalist minister. With candor and insight, she probes what is universal in her own very particular history and what it means to strive for beloved community in the face of marginalization and cultural misunderstanding.

Proposed Adult Enrichment/ Social Justice project

Possible Name:

**The Big Picture and the More Beautiful World** :Toward a better understanding of root causes of present social, economic and ecological challenges and the possibilities for building greater personal and collective resilience, wisdom, and effective action.

.....

A new paradigm is just emerging. Our capacity for understanding the interconnected web of life and approaching challenges from an “interbeing” perspective are key to moving forward with wisdom and effectiveness.

Let's explore, discover and create new understandings and new possibilities together.

First steps:

Identify people interested in these themes and issues at some level of involvement (with deep respect for everyone's needs for healthy boundaries involving time and energy).

Identify people willing and able to read ***The More Beautiful World***, by Charles Eisenstein as a starting point and theoretical foundation.

Create an introductory event such as a video night, with facilitated discussion and refreshments (no prior book reading required).

Identify areas of greatest interest and energy for next steps.

Long (Long) Term Objective:

To develop a UU adult enrichment curriculum for engaging with these ideas through a variety of mediums and activities including readings, videos, conversations, and exercises involving deep listening, awareness, creative thinking, self-expression and collective action.

If you are curious and interested in this project, please contact Cerridwen via [EnergyStudy@FCUlittle.org](mailto:EnergyStudy@FCUlittle.org).

Here's a tribute to Martin Luther King –GIVE LOVE by Sweet Honey in the Rock.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEaL4jbVeVw>



## **Women's Alliance Corner:**

### **January Alliance Meeting:**

On January 10th, the Alliance meeting featured a moving poetry reading by Rev. Marta. The new tables were used. They were bought with a gift given to us from Bob Homburg in memory of Monica Dejarlis.



### **One Man Show:**

On January 16th, Larry Lickteig and friends presented two short plays. A fun night was had by all.

### **Bach's Lunch Concert:**

On January 15th the Alliance table heard a concert of musical stories with John Guarino and Amy Lee on violin and piano. It was lovely.



The next meeting of the Alliance is February 21, at 11:00. The business meeting will be followed by lunch and a Melanoma screening and talk presented by Deb Girard.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:csj@fculittle.org), or contact Alice Schafer ([alice-schafer@comcast.net](mailto:alice-schafer@comcast.net), 978-263-5779), Kris Ersland ([Kersland1@gmail.com](mailto:Kersland1@gmail.com), 978-486-0574) or Cindy Heiland ([Cgheiland@me.com](mailto:Cgheiland@me.com), 978-263-7269)

### Share-the-Plate

On the third Sunday of each month, a charity will receive all undesignated offerings and checks made out to the charity as a contribution from the First Church Unitarian congregation. On Sunday, January 18th, FCU contributed \$646 to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The Deacons are pleased to announce that the Share the Plate recipient for February will be the Melanoma Foundation New England. Did you know that Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is one of the fastest growing cancers, and one of the most common cancers in young adults, especially women? The good news is that it's a curable cancer when caught at the earliest stage. The Melanoma Foundation New England delivers early detection and prevention programs throughout New England and provides emotional and financial support for those struggling with the disease.

Please plan to give generously to this worthy cause on February 15th.

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

## FCU - FYI Church Staff

### **Minister:**

Rev. Marta Valentín  
[minister@fculittle.org](mailto:minister@fculittle.org)

### **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.

**\*Note:** Reverend Marta will be **away** at the Institute for Excellence in Ministry from Sunday, February 1 through Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. In case of an emergency please contact Deacon Prisl Dumka at 978.505.2336.

### **Director of Spritual Development:**

Vicki Merriam

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

### **Music Director:**

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

Molly can be reached via email

### **Church Office Administrator:**

Laura Beltrami  
[office@fculittle.org](mailto:office@fculittle.org)

### **Sexton**

Henry Whitcomb Jr.  
[sexton@fculittle.org](mailto:sexton@fculittle.org)

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

## NOTE:

### **Church Officers**

**Treasurer:**  
[treasurer@fculittle.org](mailto:treasurer@fculittle.org)  
Scott Dressel

**Assistant Treasurer:**  
[AssisTreas@fculittle.org](mailto:AssisTreas@fculittle.org)  
Sara Weeks

**Clerk:**  
[clerk@fculittle.org](mailto:clerk@fculittle.org)  
Monica Pilman

**Deacons:**  
[Deacons@fculittle.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:memberreach@fculittle.org)  
Andy Leyenar, Chair

**Webmaster:**  
[webmaster@fculittle.org](mailto: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](mailto:announce@fculittle.org)

### **The Bulletin**

**1:00p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each Month**  
**Next deadline:**  
**Tuesday, February 16th at 1:00pm. Any articles submitted after that time will not be included.**

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

### **Stay in Contact with FCU**

[www.fculittle.org](http://www.fculittle.org)  
First Church Unitarian  
19 Foster Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
[office@fculittle.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**February 2015 Issue**

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