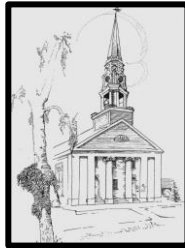


The Bulletin of First Church Unitarian Littleton

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Sunday Worship Services

REVELRY

Sometimes the juxtaposition of emotions can make life really interesting...

As we wind down not just the church year, but our ministry together, and thus our worship time together, we are challenged to so with revelry!

This month we will **Revel in Love**, celebrate **YOU**, our volunteers, and **Joyfully End Well**. Somewhere in there we will announce who this year's **Keeper of the Flame** is and celebrate our *UU Tradition*: the Flower Communion.

Our **Share the Plate** this month is the **Decibels Foundation**, which supports children with hearing loss and their families. **You can read more about them on pg._____**. As always, *thank you* for your continued generosity that promotes our wonderful FCU ministries!

Music and Musings Worship Service

I want to thank all of you that came out to join us for this new, contemporary worship service. Given all that is required of me during this transition the worship team decided not to hold one in June. It was *great fun* while it lasted and I now know my idea still works and may consider continuing it in my new home. I used to do something similar back in the mid-1990's before I ever knew I would become a minister, before "house worship" would become popular again to grow churches as it was during Jesus' time.

Spirit Matters

I'm so glad we had this time together,
just to have a laugh or sing a song,
seems we just got started and before you know it,
comes the time we have say so long...

It would be disingenuous of me if I wrote a column as if I wasn't leaving. As if this wasn't the last one I would be writing, then get to the end and say, "oh, and by the way, good-bye!"

I have put off writing this column to the very end, way past the deadline, because I knew it would be hard. For many different reasons, none of which I feel the need to elaborate on here. I just want to acknowledge that good-byes are hard. Period. And many people don't even know or want to engage in the act of it, necessary as it is. But I have found that for me, it's more about saying so long, because people live on for me in my heart, and even when I move states away, given today's technology I hear about folks, or given how small our denomination is, I see folks at General Assembly. And given that Alison, Jaiya, and I are not moving very far away (Ayer), I am bound to run into one or two of you here and there as we go on with our lives. So good-bye feels inappropriate.

And yet, the act of acknowledging the departure and being able to wish each other well is an important part of our process of releasing one another. I want to end well with you, honestly, and openly, so I must tell you now that the proper way of letting you go is to unhitch ways in which we are connected. That is, remember what I just said about technology? One way that we are connected is through Facebook. I finally opened an account when the church opened ours and I wanted to stay connected. Now I must, awful as it sounds, "unfriend" all of you that I've "friended." The wisdom in the collegial circles is to do it all at once. I understand that wisdom, as no one ought to feel more special than another. The idea of separation is probably the hardest part of being a minister.

But, in real life if we were to see each other on the street, at Market Basket or Kimball's, or even a regional workshop, I will greet you as I always have, with a big hug and a smile. We are after all human beings with real emotions. So I will want to know about you and your life, and even some about the church, but not the politics or complaints; you can keep that between you and your new pastor. I trust it will be all be fine.

And somehow in this last month together, we will find a way to live a life of *revelry*, honoring and celebrating all that we've done together. Which has been quite a bit.

All good things to you all-ways! I will be watching from afar, and sending love.

Love,

Rev. Marta



Church Business

Deacon Notes

As we move from May into June, we move from the theme of tradition to revelry.

Looking back on May, we celebrated some of our FCU traditions: RE Sunday and the Bridging of our high school seniors. Congratulations to Adam, Ian, Nick, and Scott; all the best on your journeys.

Sometimes traditions change. The Deacons have decided to not have the two Soulful Sundown Services this summer (say that 3 times fast). However, we would like to hold up the work that Carolyn McCreary and Carole Tillis are doing with organizing the Summer Sunday TED Talk Gatherings. From the Sunday following the July 4th weekend till the weekend before Labor Day we will meet each Sunday morning (except one) and share our favorite TED Talks. The exception will be August 2nd when we hope you'll head over to the Stow/Acton Church for our Joint Summer Service with Stow & Acton and Harvard UU's and maybe more. If you'd like to volunteer to lead one of the Summer Sunday TED Talk Gatherings, Carolyn and Carole would love to hear from you.

June may bring many mixed emotions. For you, it may bring sadness because of Rev. Marta's departure. For others, it may be excitement knowing that Rev. Stephen Edington, our interim minister, will be with us soon. Whatever you are feeling, please talk to others and in turn listen to others. Through these conversations we can live our vision statement by honoring each.

A special thank you to Joel, Phyllis, Jim, Amy, and Tom for all the work they did in finding Rev. Edington. It is much appreciated.

June's theme of revelry brings me to our final Sunday, June 21. In the spirit of revelry, the Deacons are leading the preparations for a celebration send off for Rev. Marta, Alison, and Jaiya. Please join us in thanking them for being among us for seven years and wish them well on their journey. Seeing it's the last Sunday Service, the ET will make sure there is strawberry shortcake and maybe some other surprise desserts.

Peace,
Prisl Dumka, for the Deacons

Standing Committee Notes

As the church year winds down, the Standing Committee is charged to complete annual reviews of our staff. Your input is an integral part of the process. If you have any feedback you'd like to share on our Music Director, Director of Spiritual Director, Office Administrator, or Sexton, please share it with any of the Standing Committee members.

We look forward to the summer and the church year to come with anticipation and excitement—a time of change and transition, a time of loss and of new connections. Keep talking to one another and to us. We're heading into a new era together in love.

Melissa Baern, for the Standing Committee

Committee Updates

Sacred Circle Dance: SUMMER!

Friday, June 12, in the vestry

Our last dance until September! We welcome summer and the solstice by dancing some of our favorites from the past year. Come to the circle of friendship, for easy movement and focused coordination. NO experience is needed—all dances are taught. Community Circle (easier dances) 7 to 9 p.m., with more challenging dances at 6. Bring your water bottle and a willing spirit. For more info, contact Circle@FCUlittle.org



LCOC's Littleton Day of Caring on June 13

Saturday, June 13; rain date June 20

The Littleton Council of Churches Community Service Project on June 13, 9 a.m. – 12 noon, will be followed by a picnic for all volunteers.

Working with the Littleton Council on Aging, congregants and friends from each of the 5 churches will come together to help seniors in the community who need assistance with yard clean-up. We will meet at St. Anne Catholic Church, 75 King Street, Littleton.

If early on the morning of June 13, you are moved to participate and did not register, please come on over to St. Anne's at 9 to receive an assignment.

If you have questions please contact Jeanne Anthony, Debbie Eston, or Cindy Heiland—FCU's Littleton Council of Churches representatives.

We hope you will participate in this Day of Caring.



Women's Alliance



Heartfelt thanks to the Women's Alliance for all its tremendous support of FCU!!

The Women's Alliance Annual Meeting was held May 16. The Alliance voted to contribute \$2,000 to the roof fund.

Also voted on was the refurbishment of the Alliance Room. The plan is to install a dropped ceiling, do electrical work, and paint the walls over the summer. The refurbishment will be funded primarily by the generous donation of Bob Homburg in memory of Marcia Desjarlais.

Wendy McDougall, President, FCU Women's Alliance

Multicultural Ministries Committee

We are nearing the end of a very successful year of building coalitions with churches and people who are committed to developing AO/AR/MC (anti-oppression/ anti-racism/multicultural) awareness and a commitment to “keep on moving forward,” in the words of Emma’s Revolution. We would like to hear from the FCU community what activities would help us become more effective in this effort.

MMC’s movie night has been very successful in drawing in people from outside the FCU community, including young people from Littleton High School and lively, thought provoking discussions have occurred after each movie. Our last movie, *Stonewall*, was shown on June 6. This movie shows how, when members of a culture are unseen, unheard, discriminated against, and abused by people in power, violence seems to be the only way of changing the status quo.

The planned “Beloved Conversations” workshop will not be held before the end of the year. Caroline Marvin and Betsy Read will be facilitating “Beloved Conversations” workshops in the coming year.

On May 16, the GRACE (Growing Racial And Cultural Equity) team ran their fifth inspiring workshop at the Hudson, Mass., UU church. Nine members of FCU attended—the largest representation out of 36 New England churches that attended.

Thanks to Rev Marta’s inspiration, encouragement, and mentoring, our church has become a leader in this part of Massachusetts regarding AO/AR/MC.

Caring for Our Aging Parents (COAP)

July 6 & August 3 (first Monday of the month)

7 – 9 p.m.

COAP is a supportive group for those of us are dealing with issues related to caring for aging parents. We will continue to meet through the summer months *away from church*. For locations of meetings and more info contact COAP@FCUlittle.org.

Newcomers are warmly welcomed.

The More Beautiful World

Wednesday, June 24

7 – 9 p.m.

Our explorations continue Wednesday, June 24, in the Alliance room. We'll be exploring basic New Story concepts: the story of separation; the story of interbeing; chaos; emergence; morphic resonance; synchronicity and openness to "What wants to happen," drawing on *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible* by Charles Eisenstein and other sources.

Come join us. morebeautifulworld@fcuittle.org.



The Energy Medicine Study Group

We'll be meeting at various times and places this summer, enjoying the beauty of Nature as well as the good vibes of our healing and learning circle. Events may be scheduled at the last minute, especially outdoor excursions, to take advantage of good weather.

The best way to stay informed and connect with others is to join our meetup group:

www.meetup.com/energymedicinestudy/. EnergyStudy@fcuittle.org.

Cerridwen

Stay Connected to FCU



12th Joint Summer Service: The Circle Widens Sunday, August 2, at 10:00 a.m at Stow/Acton UU Church

Mark your calendars! On Sunday morning, August 2, at 10:00A a.m., the Stow/Acton church will host the annual joint summer service of the Harvard, Littleton, and Stow/Acton UU churches. Choir rehearsal begins at 8:30 a.m.

Exciting news: Our circle is growing. Our neighbors from the UU congregations of Hudson, Lancaster, and Groton will be joining us this year.

The service is modeled after a Sunday morning, minister-led service and incorporates worship traditions from the various churches. Rev. Susie Phoenix, home-grown minister from Stow, will lead the worship service.

There will be a “pick-up” choir. Mike Pfitzer, Music Director of Stow/Acton, will direct the choir. Rehearsal begins at 8:30, and all singers are welcome. The choir will sing a choral introit and anthem.

Summer Sunday TED Talk Gatherings

Many of us miss seeing our “church family” in the summer. But this summer will be different. Most Sundays we will gather to watch a video of someone’s favorite TED (technology, entertainment, design) Talk and discuss it. We will meet at our regular Sunday service hour of 10:00 a.m. either in the vestry or downstairs. The schedule will include all Sundays after the July 4th weekend and before Labor Day weekend, except August 2, when we hope to see you at our joint summer service.

The format is simple: watch a video and share your thoughts and feelings. Bring an open mind, a caring heart, and your water bottle. All we need is a few volunteers to share their favorite TED Talk and lead a discussion on it. If you would like to share, send the title and author of your favorite talk along with your available dates to Carolyn McCreary, clmccreary@comcast.net. Carole Tillis and I will set the schedule, arrange for the technical details, and communicate the schedule to the community.



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

CANDLES OF SORROW

Our condolences go out to

- 🕯 Mike Pilman, on the death of his mother, Francis
- 🕯 Bill Mitchell, on the death of his friend

Our healing thoughts and prayers go out to:

- 🕯 Carl Britton's dad
- 🕯 Ron Pickett
- 🕯 The Girard-Terrey Family
- 🕯 Malcolm Kron and his father

Candles of celebration

CANDLES OF CELEBRATION

We celebrate with

- 🕯 The Kaylor's on their impending grandparenthood
- 🕯 Nick Lombardy on his choice of Virginia Tech next fall
- 🕯 The Mixed Choir and Artemis Singers for a great Spring Concert
- 🕯 The graduating seniors: Ian Henriques, Scott Henriques, Adam Leyenaar, and Nick Lombardy

Our thoughts of courage and encouragement go out to

- 🕯 Sue Martin and her family
- 🕯 Patti Sardella and her "charge"
- 🕯 Cathy Sherrad and Fernando Deluca on their move to be with daughter

Share-the-Plate

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.

On Sunday, May 17, FCU contributed \$521.85 to *The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*, which was chosen unanimously by the kids in our Spiritual Development Program out of their love for animals.

JUNE'S RECIPIENT: The *Decibels Foundation* has been chosen to receive our Share-the-Plate offerings on **June 21**. As stated on their website, <http://www.decibelsfoundation.org>, the mission of the Decibels Foundation is to provide specialized early intervention, educational services, family support and access to essential technologies for children with hearing loss from infancy through high school. Bobbie Dressel, Program Director, will tell us about the good works of the Decibels Foundation during our worship service.

A Note from your Editorial Assistant

Ah, June! Easing into summer...well, some of us are easing. Some of us are traveling at breakneck speed, and some of us might even be traveling so fast we kind of lose track of our responsibilities. **My apologies for the late appearance of this Bulletin.** It is entirely my own fault—as we transition, our new editor, Deborah Niles, is discharging her duties with admirable promptness and great competence, and I'm the flake holding her up.



Happy summer, all!

Melissa Baern



Kids Matter(s)

Summer Time, Play Time

It is a happy talent to know how to play.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

As I walked to the back door at church one Sunday morning a few weeks ago, the sheep who live behind us seemed to be calling to me. I went over to the railing as they were just coming out of the barn. It was the first time I had seen them this spring (I check regularly) and what I was hearing was the bleating of this spring's lambs, some black, some white, all quite excited to be outside it seemed. Two began to race each other to the end of the pen and back. When they got to one end they would stop momentarily and look at each other as if to say, "That was fun. Want to do it again?" Then they would race to the other end. Soon other lambs joined them while the grown sheep stood around passively.

Those lambs were completely engrossed with play and joy that continued even after I had to go and take care of my responsibilities. But I often call up the image of them in their revelry to remind myself to find balance between my work and my play.

Spiritual Development Notes

- ⊕ We are currently working on the curricula and registration forms for next year. Please watch for details.
- ⊕ The children made "prayer flags" a few weeks ago which they hung on the fence in the back yard. As each thread flies off, the messages they wrote are thereby sent out into the world. Take a look at them but leave them there.

June Spiritual Development Calendar


Sun.	6/7	"Friendship;" children will make gifts for each other and we'll end with a party to say good bye to Jaiya. This will be our final children's program for this year. BRING FOOD FOR LOAVES AND FISHES!
Sun.	6/14	Flower Communion, multi-generational service. PLEASE BRING A FLOWER TO SHARE!
Sun.	6/21	Final service of the year, multi-generational; followed by a party for Rev. Marta and her family

"This life of ours is ultimately the equivalent of being invited to the best party in town. Our challenge is to stay awake to that, to continually pull ourselves back from the mindset that our days are simply a series of challenges and responsibilities. It's all about balance. We are called to look around and see all that must be done. We are also called to look around and see all that has been given."

-Soul Matters, June

Which will you be—joyful lamb or bored sheep? Take time to play this summer. Share the revelry with your children, family, and friends. Participate in the "best party in town."

With joy,
Vicki Merriam, Director of Spiritual Development for Children and Youth

FCU STAFF	FCU OFFICERS	STAY IN CONTACT WITH FCU
 <p>MINISTER Rev. Marta Valentín minister@fculittle.org</p> <p>Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 2-4 p.m. and by appointment.</p> <p>Monday is Rev. Marta's Sabbath day. Thursday and Saturday are sermon preparation and writing days.</p> <p>In an emergency, Rev. Marta can be reached on her cellphone at 617.513.2075.</p> <p>DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT Vicki Merriam dsd@fculittle.org</p> <p>MUSIC DIRECTOR Molly Lozeau music@fculittle.org</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR Laura Beltrami office@fculittle.org</p> <p>SEXTON Henry Whitcomb, Jr. sexton@fculittle.org</p> <p>Henry can also be reached via cellphone at 978.273.0170.</p>	<p>TREASURER Scott Dressel treasurer@fculittle.org</p> <p>ASSISTANT TREASURER Sara Weeks assistreas@fculittle.org</p> <p>CLERK Monica Pilman clerk@fculittle.org</p> <p>DEACONS <i>The Deacons oversee worship and the pastoral and spiritual life of the church.</i></p> <p>Prisl Dumka (chair), Debbie Eston, Jon Welch deacons@fculittle.org</p> <p>STANDING COMMITTEE <i>The Standing Committee manages the business and organization of the church.</i></p> <p>Joel Ross (chair), Melissa Baern, Deb Girard, Mike Pilman, Betsy Read, Bob Williams sc-chair@fculittle.org</p>	<p>First Church Unitarian 19 Foster Street Littleton, MA 01460 978.486.3044 office@fculittle.org www.fculittle.org</p> <p>FCU COMMUNITY LISTSERVE Get breaking news from our community. Sign up at http://seven.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/fcu or visit the link on our website under the "contact us" section. For more information, email office@fculittle.org.</p> <p>FCU FACEBOOK PAGE Like us at http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton and share our page with others who might be interested!</p> <p>WEBMASTER Leslie Gloyd webmaster@fculittle.org</p>
		COMMUNICATIONS DEADLINES
	<p>OTHER FCU CONTACTS</p> <p>LAY PASTORAL MINISTERS <i>Lay Ministers offer a listening ear and pastoral attention to members of the congregation.</i></p> <p>Anna Fadden (team leader), Jeanne Anthony, Thom Bentley, David Butz, Caroline Marvin, Jim Nehring, Patti Sardella laypastoralmin@fculittle.org</p> <p>MEMBER-REACH COMMITTEE Andy Leyenaar, chair memberreach@fculittle.org</p>	<p>Community Matters Printed in the weekly Order of Service and then distributed via FCU listserv.</p> <p>announce@fculittle.org</p> <p>❖ Thursday, 10 a.m.</p> <p>The Bulletin Published monthly online and distributed via FCU listserv.</p> <p>bulletin@fculittle.org</p> <p>❖ 3rd Tuesday of each month, 1 p.m. ❖ Next deadline: Tuesday, June 16, 1 p.m.</p> <p><i>Items submitted after deadline may not be included.</i></p>



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June 2015 Issue

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<http://fculittle.org/calendar.php>