



The Bulletin



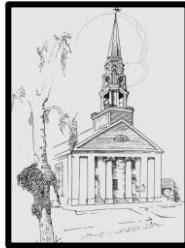
July 2015

bulletin@fculittle.org

The Bulletin of First Church Unitarian Littleton

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Sunday Worship Services

Though the church year has ended, summer holds many opportunities to worship together in community! Please see the following page for details about our joint summer service on August 2 and our new Ted Talk Gatherings throughout the summer.

Share-the-Plate Update

On Sunday, June 21, **FCU contributed \$878 to The Decibels Foundation**, whose mission is to provide specialized early intervention, education services, family support, and access to essential technologies for children with hearing loss from infancy through high school.

Over this recently completed church year, **\$6,325.96 was donated through our Share-the-Plate program**. We learned about—and supported—these charitable organizations, who are making a difference in the lives of many:

- Standing on the Side of Love
- OpenDoor Housing Fund
- Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts
- Make a Wish Foundation
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- The Melanoma Foundation of New England
- New Start Project
- The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- The Decibels Foundation

Our Share-the-Plate program will continue next year. More information about the program will be provided in the August Bulletin.

To nominate a charitable organization to receive our Share-the-Plate offerings one Sunday, please email Deacons@fculittle.org.

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 10:00 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

Join us at 10 a.m. most Sundays this summer for TED Talk Gatherings. The format is simple: watch a video and share your thoughts and feelings. Bring an open mind, a caring heart, and your water bottle.

DATE	TED TALK	COORDINATOR
July 12	Atheism 2.0 Alain de Botton	Carolyn McCreary
July 19	The Surprising Science of Happiness Dan Gilbert	Suzanne Artemieff
July 26	Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are Amy Cuddy	Anna Fadden
August 9	The Power of Vulnerability Brene Brown	Monica Pilman
August 16	My Stroke of Insight Jill Bolte Taylor	Mary Ellen Connell
August 23	What Does My Head Scarf Mean to You? Yassmin Abdel-Magied	Debbie Eston
August 30	The Danger of the Single Story Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Multicultural Ministries



Church Business

Deacon Notes

June sure was filled with many mixed emotions!

It was such a privilege to announce the 2015 Keeper of the Flame award, given to Barbara Whitcomb in grateful recognition of her many years of service to FCU. Barbara, we all are so very proud of you and the way you continue to make a difference in all our lives.

We also welcomed our newest members, Dana, Lauren, Malcolm, and Tom. I look forward to see where each of you will find your ministries here at FCU. Tom and Lauren, thank you for stepping up so quickly to be on the Standing Committee and be our Auditor. I admire your dedication to FCU.

We celebrated you—our wonderful volunteers. I'd like to share a special thanks to Lynda Kaylor who has heading up AEC for so many years and to Theresa Catino who took on Hospitality this past year. Lynda and Theresa, thank you so much for all you have done to make FCU a better place to be!

What would June be without our Flower Communion? It is one tradition I love! And then came our last service of this church year. What a wonderful way to celebrate together. I heard from people that it was a two or three tissue service. Rev. Marta, you will be missed!

Now is my turn to say goodbye as my four-year term as a deacon is coming to an end. It has been an honor to serve you and a treasure to build so many deeper relationships. A very, very special thank you to my fellow Deacons. Peter, Phyllis, Larry, Jon, Debbie, and Louis, it has been a privilege to work and be with each one of you! You have taught me and supported me so much! I'd like to also say thank you to Joel. It's been wonderful working so closely with you this year.

Rev. Marta, we have worked together for seven years. Search Team, Transition Team, Deacon: it didn't matter which role I was in, you were the constant. The one to gently push me out of my comfort zone. I thank you for believing in me every step of the way. You will always have a very special place in my heart.

I leave you in good hands. Jon, Debbie, and Kris will make an awesome Board of Deacons. Please support them as they do their very best to serve you. They do want to hear from you; but please—not only with what you think is going wrong, but with what you see is going well here at FCU, too.

Have a wonderful summer. I hope each one of you find moments to refresh. And I hope to see you this summer at either one of the Summer Sunday TED Talk Gatherings or at the Joint Summer Service on August 2.

With Love,
Prisl Dumka, for the Deacons

Standing Committee Notes

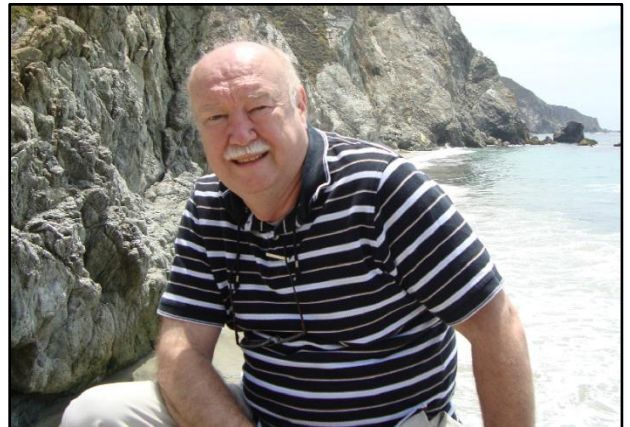
The Standing Committee members all look forward to the summer break knowing full well that our service to FCU continues all year long. Several members are researching how we can best deal with our parsonage going forward. It has presented particular problems when we are in search for a minister. Efforts are underway to determine the legalities and practicalities of various options. The congregation will hear more details at our October meeting. In addition, plans are being made to deal with the financial requirements that roof repair and other maintenance issues will entail. As we enter the transitional period with our interim minister, Steve Edington, the Standing Committee will be actively engaged in forming a Transition Team.

On a personal note, I want to again express my appreciation to the congregation for the support I experienced in my three years as part of the Standing Committee. I enjoyed the interaction with other Standing Committee members, with the Deacons, with our Clerk, and with our Minister. I'll miss the laughter as well as the thoughtful consideration of important issues in FCU life. I leave fully competent that the committee is in good hands and will carry us through the coming year with all of the challenges facing it.

Joel Ross, for the Standing Committee

It is our great pleasure to let you know that Rev. Stephen Edington has accepted our offer to join us as our Interim Minister for a 2-year period. The Transition Team, led by Joel Ross, vetted several candidates for the position and believes that Steve is a wonderful fit for our congregation as we focus on doing the work leading up to and including the search process for a settled minister.

Steve comes to FCU after serving for 24 years as minister of the UU Church in Nashua, N.H.; a one-year interim ministry in Manchester, N.H.; and a two-year interim position in Montpelier, Vermont.



Rev. Stephen Edington

When you have an opportunity, visit his website at www.revstephenedington.com to learn more about him and read about his ministry.

Members of the Executive Team will meet with Steve over the summer to begin planning for the next church year. We are truly delighted that Steve will begin this journey with us and excited about the road ahead.

Deb Girard, for the Standing Committee

Committee Updates

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance has had its last scheduled meeting before the summer break, but crafting on Wednesdays continues! Contact Bev Cyr at 978-952-6574 if you have any questions. We welcome crafters of all skill levels!

Bach's Lunch will be on hiatus for the summer. Have a great summer everyone!

Wendy McDougall, President, FCU Women's Alliance



LCOC's Littleton Day of Caring

Mother Nature provided a lovely day on June 13 for the first **Littleton Day of Caring**. About 50 congregants from the five churches comprising the Littleton Council of Churches assisted senior home owners with yard clean up. Among these hearty souls were FCUers Rich, Nick, and Dan Lombardy and Debbie Eston.

As it turned out, a lawn mower was needed at the home where Debbie worked and with Kris and Peter Erslund's home within walking distance, a lawn mower was easily procured—thanks, Erslunds! It hadn't dawned on the organizers to ask those who weren't available that day to provide tools that could be used. You will likely see this as a way to participate next year.

Though the focus of this family-friendly Day of Caring was to serve others, it also provided an opportunity for people to get to know each other. I served with a young couple and their 19-month-old daughter from the LDS church and a fellow council member from the Congregational Church. It was fun to share stories of our lives, learning about and from each other even though our paths may not meet again.

Thank you to Rich, Nick, Dan, Kris, and Peter and to all who worked together to make a difference in the lives of the homeowners you served.

As this church year comes to a close, Jeanne Anthony and Cindy Heiland each complete their term as FCU representatives to the council and with Rev. Marta leaving us, she too concludes her service. Jeanne, Cindy, and Rev. Marta—thank you, thank you for your service to others through the council.

If upon reading this article you felt a spark of curiosity about what it would be like to be a representative on the council please send an email to lcoc@fculittleorg or let me know. Serving on the council is rewarding in so many ways.

Debbie Eston, for FCU's Littleton Council of Churches Reps.

Caring for Our Aging Parents (COAP)

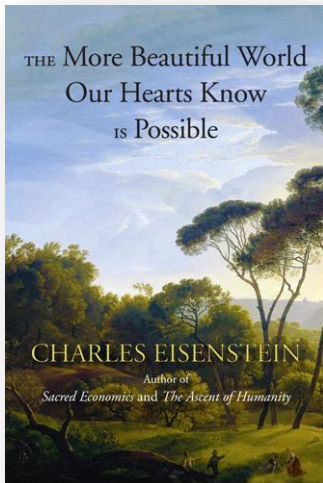
July 6 & August 3 (first Monday of the month)

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



Tuesday, July 14

Time and location to be announced

(email us! morebeautifulworld@fculittle.org)

Our explorations continue!

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.

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/.

You may also email us at EnergyStudy@fculittle.org.

Cerridwen

Calling all FCU Campers!!

There may still be time to sign up for **FCU's annual camping trip!** Join us at Otter River State Forest the weekend of August 28. Many of us have reserved sites in or near the loop that goes from site 50 to 57.

The campground is in Baldwinville, Mass., just a 40-minute drive from Littleton. It has a nice small swimming area and beach, as well as decent bathrooms with showers.

Call Pam or Joel Ross at 978.486.9856 for more information.

Camping with
FCU friends rocks!

THE COUNTRY FAIR MANIFESTO

When	Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where	Fay Park (across the street from FCU)
Why	A major fundraiser for FCU and a great fun community day for all ages
Who	Members and friends of FCU run the fair; everyone is invited to attend!

You—yes, YOU—are the secret
to the success of our Country Fair.

Here's how you can make the 2015 Country Fair the best one yet.

How Can I Help?



If you have not yet signed up for a role in this year's fair, or heard from Fair Queen Monica Pilman or a booth captain 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 suggestion you have to offer, please contact fair@fulittle.org.

Friday setup

We begin setting up the big rental tents at 3 p.m. At 6 p.m. we'll switch to other setup tasks. We will end at about 8 p.m. with a dinner fixed by Bob and Susan and crew in the downstairs dining room.

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 include setting up tents, prepping food for our Lunch Table, sorting items from the barn, and moving picnic tables and books. One goal is to transport as many books as possible from the barn to the vestry, and as many 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 Friday night book transfer.

We need **tarps** to keep everything dry overnight. If you have one we can borrow, please bring it. Remember to put your name on anything you loan to the fair so it can be returned.

Saturday morning setup

Setup starts promptly at 7 a.m.! Again, we need all the help we can get. 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. If you can bring a truck and/or trailer we would appreciate it.

Saturday breakdown & cleanup

Many people arrive as early as 7 a.m. and work the entire day making fair events flow flawlessly. This can make for a very long day. If you can't make it to the fair earlier because of family or sports commitments, would you consider helping with breakdown and cleanup? We could really use the fresh and energized legs. See Monica Pilman for an assignment when you arrive, or join a work crew in progress.



What Can I Donate?

Trash and Treasure & Kid's Trash and Treasure

Clean out your basements, attics, and garages and bring your trash—someone else's treasure—to the parsonage barn at 27 Foster Street. **Please make sure your contributions are in good, reusable shape!** Items must be taken to the second floor of the barn. If you need help getting items upstairs, contact us at barn@fculittle.org. If you donate children's items, please be sure they conform to current safety guidelines.

The barn is now open from 5 p.m.–dusk every day, weekends preferred. After Rev. Marta and her family move to their new home, the barn will be open all day, every day until the fair.

Jewelry

The jewelry table needs for your donations! Any silver, gold, semi-precious or (dare I hope) precious stone contributions will be priced and displayed accordingly; costume jewelry is always welcome too. Jewelry can be dropped off in the vestry. FCU's summer hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Call Laura Beltrami if you need to make other arrangements.

Secret Bid Auction

Fair attendees place secret bids on special items, and when the fair ends, the high bidder wins the item.

The first year we tried this, it made a lot of money for our fair. But last year, we didn't get enough quality donations. **Please contribute great stuff so we can make it work this year!** Suggestions include 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.

Books and DVDs

Weed out your bookcases and donate your gently used books and DVDs. Bring them to the barn and leave them on the ground floor in the back corner (look for signs). Please, **no copies** of DVDs—they need to be in their original jewel cases or boxes!

Unfortunately, the 20th century called and it wanted its media back, so we are no longer able to accept VHS, Betamax, or 8-track tapes; CDs; or vinyl records.

Beverages

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

Homemade Baked Goods and Homegrown Tomatoes

The Baked Goods table welcomes your donations of homemade baked goods and fudge. Homegrown tomatoes are greatly appreciated by the lunch table and 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."



What Else Do You Need?

Canopies, Tarps, Tables, Coolers

If you own a canopy, tarp, or table we would love to use it. Shade is at a premium and canopies help to make the day much more pleasant for those working the booths. If you drop your tarp/canopy off at the church we will happily set it up for you. We also need lots of ice chests and large coolers for storing drinks. All items can be dropped off at the church at any time on Friday straight through to Saturday morning.

Be sure to label your tarps, canopies, tables, and coolers!

How Do I Sign Up or Learn More?

Call Monica Pilman (Queen): 508-331-9220

Call Mike Pilman (Court Jester): 978-264-0818

Fair business email: fair@fculittle.org

Barn help email: barn@fculittle.org

Crafter/Vendor Booths

Do you know someone with a business selling locally made, original items who wants a booth at our Fair? Have them contact us at fair@fculittle.org!

Non-profit Booths

Local non-profits are welcome to promote their organizations at our fair. They may even run small fundraisers as long as they do not conflict with any church-sponsored booths (check with us to make sure!). Contact Martha Childs for details.





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

CANDLES OF SORROW

Our condolences to

- 🕯️ Melissa Baern, on the death of her friend, Helen Louise Millard
- 🕯️ Tom Malone, on the death of his two cousins
- 🕯️ Lauren Forney, on the death of her uncle
- 🕯️ Héctor Malavé, on the death of his cousin Angie
- 🕯️ Rick Poyner, on the death of his mother Betty at age 90

Our healing thoughts and prayers for

- 🕯️ Melissa Baern's friend, Adena Schutzberg
- 🕯️ Lynda Kaylor's sister, Carol Brown
- 🕯️ Nancy Bruns
- 🕯️ Jeanne Anthony's friend, Carol Duncan
- 🕯️ Carl Britton's dad
- 🕯️ The families of the people in Charleston, S.C., who were murdered

CANDLES OF CELEBRATION

We celebrate with

- 🕯️ Anna Fadden on her daughter Sara's hooding ceremony
- 🕯️ Deborah Niles on the graduation of her daughter
- 🕯️ Marney Stoumbelis on her niece's graduation
- 🕯️ The Brittons on the graduations of Lizzy and Will
- 🕯️ Barbara Whitcomb on the graduations of two grandchildren and being named 2015 Keeper of the Flame
- 🕯️ Malcom Kron on his son's birthdays
- 🕯️ Andy Leyenaar, on Adam's graduation
- 🕯️ Callie Henriquez on Scott and Ian's graduations and becoming Eagle Scouts
- 🕯️ Adam Leyenaar, feeling gratitude for Rev. Marta, congregation, and his parents

Our thoughts of courage and encouragement go out to

- 🕯️ Niela Miller and her grandson Peter
 - 🕯️ Cindy Malley and her cousins in the Navy
 - 🕯️ Angus Pratt, as he finds his way
 - 🕯️ Jim Gordon, struggling with Gwen's move to Life Care Center
 - 🕯️ Lauren Forney's friend Liz in recovery
- 🕯️ On June 21, many candles of gratitude, love, and goodbye were lit for Rev. Marta.



Kids Matter(s)

Getting Ready

Summer is here and life slows down a bit with more time for fun and relaxation, family and friends, I hope. Of course we all still have plenty to do, which for me includes getting our Spiritual Development program ready to begin again in September.

New for next year is the middle school curriculum, "You the Creator," and a restart of our Coming of Age program for those in 8th grade and up. We will continue to offer curricula two Sundays per month, one Chapel Sunday each month, and Community Sundays occasionally. And we will all come together in worship once each month at our multigenerational services.

Also, the SD committee will be offering family events several times during the year. These will be opportunities for children, youth, parents, and others to come together for camaraderie, to share food and fun, and to build community among all families, new and returning. The first one is scheduled for **Sunday, Sept. 20**, after the service.

We are currently recruiting teachers and helpers for all of these offerings. I hope you will give serious consideration to playing a role in helping our children and youth grow their spirits and become part of our congregation. We make it easy by providing everything needed and by spreading the commitment around. We also offer a few alternative ways to support our program if that works better for you which we are happy to talk about with you.

Following are brief descriptions of the curricula we will be using this fall. Registration forms will be sent later in the summer.

In the meantime, enjoy, renew, and come back with lots of enthusiasm for FCU and our Spiritual Development program.

With joy,

*Vicki Merriam, Director of Spiritual Development
for Children and Youth*

Spiritual Development Curricula 2015-2016

Spirit Play (cycle 2 of 2-year rotating program)

primary school ages

This program encourages engagement at the child's developmental level and mode of learning. By using stories from many traditions and "wonderings" about the lesson we hope to help the children to begin to "live into their own answers" to the big questions in life through the lens of UU values and beliefs.

Holidays and Holy Days

elementary school ages

This favorite curriculum is a hands-on exploration of world religions through the festive celebrations of significant holidays in various cultures and religious groups. Each lesson explicitly relates the theme of the celebration to a specific UU value or belief. Recently adapted to include new celebrations and avoid misappropriation of spiritual ritual and beliefs.

You the Creator

middle school

With a focus on the themes of religion, creation, arts, individual and universal creativity, we'll explore the innate creative power of each person to shape ourselves and the world. An activity-based program of creative empowerment, it is rich with activities like role-plays, continuums, drawing, sculpting, constructing, and designing more perfect people. The theme of spirituality touches every session.

Coming of Age

8th grade and up

This is our program for youth who are preparing to be welcomed into the adult congregation and senior youth group. With the support of their mentors, participants will develop their own credos. Areas of study include: UU heritage and theology, personal beliefs, worship, and social responsibility. The program culminates in the spring with a ceremony.

Community Sundays

all ages

On occasional Sundays, we offer games (indoors or out) and other unstructured activities so children and youth can hang out and play together.

Chapel Sundays

all ages

Service projects, crafts, cooperative games, cooking, decorating our space, special projects and more all with a focus on the theme of the month.

Junior Youth & Senior Youth Groups

Junior youth (middle school, grades 6-8) will meet occasionally for fun community building activities.

Senior youth meet twice per month (1st & 3rd Sundays), cook pancakes for us on the 1st Sunday, and plan a major service project/trip for the spring.

FCU STAFF	FCU OFFICERS	STAY IN CONTACT WITH FCU
 <p>MINISTER In this period of transition, please contact Chair of the Deacons Jon Welch in a pastoral emergency.</p> <p>JonHWelch@gmail.com 978.846.3739</p> <p>You may also contact Laura Beltrami at office@fculittle.org.</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 Martha Childs clerk@fculittle.org</p> <p>DEACONS <i>The Deacons oversee worship and the pastoral and spiritual life of the church.</i></p> <p>Jon Welch (chair), Kris Ersland, Debbie Eston deacons@fculittle.org</p> <p>STANDING COMMITTEE <i>The Standing Committee manages the business and organization of the church.</i></p> <p>Deb Girard (chair), Melissa Baern, Tom Cowan, Mike Pilman, 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> <p>Community Matters Printed in the weekly Order of Service and then distributed via FCU listserv.</p>
	<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>Jeanne Anthony, Thom Bentley, David Butz, Caroline Marvin, Jim Nehring, Patti Sardella laypastoralmin@fculittle.org</p> <p>MEMBER-REACH COMMITTEE Joel Ross, chair memberreach@fculittle.org</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, July 21, 1 p.m.</p> <p><i>Items submitted after deadline may not be included.</i></p>



First Church Unitarian
19 Foster Street
Littleton, MA 01460

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For an electronic copy, email
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 2015 Issue

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