



The Bulletin

AUGUST 2015

BULLETIN@FCULITTLE.ORG



Following is an essay, reprinted with the author's permission from the UUA website, that resonated deeply with the Executive Team; you might say it "stuck" with us. Enjoy.



The Unitarian Universalist congregation where I served as an intern made a mosaic Tree of Life the summer before I arrived. Congregants of all ages came together to craft the tree's leaves, using bits and pieces of broken ceramics, jewelry, glass, and stone. There are many precious personal items in the tree, including fragments of the Berlin Wall, a

father's watch face, pieces of great grandmother's china, and a key to the front door of a loved home. Like the members of the community that brought them together, each part is imbued with memories and meaning; each fragment holds a piece of truth.

Unitarian Universalists are mosaic makers. We are a people who bring together the broken pieces of our histories and the shining pieces of our seeking and, piece by piece, create a mosaic religion. Our Tree of Life is found in the stories of our living tradition. The bead from a transformational moment of worship at a youth conference. The bit of paper stamped with the blazing emblem of the Unitarian Service Committee that saved lives during World War II. The button or patch on a backpack that proudly proclaims the first justice issue that lit our souls on fire. But our mosaic making tells another story too, one that is often more difficult to see. One that is essential to the purpose of religious community. One that lies not in the beautiful and broken bits and pieces but in the grout.

Grout. The chalky, gritty stuff that is squeezed between the cracks of tiles. In a mosaic, the grout holds the image together, unifying disparate pieces into a whole. The grout of a community takes years to lay and settle. Grout happens in board meetings and committee meetings and endless emails and slow-moving institutions. It is in weekly potlucks shared by neighbors, a ride to church, and coffee in the social hall after worship. While the folks who show up for church only on Christmas and Easter will hopefully enjoy the beauty of the mosaic they find, they may never know the power of the grout that holds us through all the seasons of life.

We help to make the grout when we learn each other's names and when we reach out across generational divides. We help to make the grout when we show up on Sunday morning without having checked first to see if we're interested in the sermon topic. When a newborn arrives to be blessed by the community, it is the grout that enables us to welcome them. And it is in the grout that we rest when we gather to grieve and memorialize a beloved one who has died.



Hold us, O Grout.

Gather us in, through time and space, and make all our broken pieces whole in community. In our multiplicity, make us one. From each of our jagged edges, give us the shape of a communal beauty.

Author Marcus Hartnett Liefert is Associate Minister at First Unitarian Church of Rochester and Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua, New York.

Stay Connected to FCU



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
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

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!



Church Business

Deacon Notes

For me, July seems to have flown by. I hope you are enjoying your summer as much as I am.

Although we have not met for worship services, our community is still active. On June 28th many of us gathered for the Sunday worship service held at General Assembly in Portland. We were treated to a wonderful service and got to hear Peter Erslund and John Ford singing in the choir!

As I write this, our Interim Minister Stephen Edington has not officially started, but he has already met with many of us as we make plans for this interim period—and **for the start of our church year on September 13th**. Remember that, as is our tradition, we will be having a water communion ceremony on our first Sunday back together. All are encouraged to bring with them a sample of water that represents something special to you from our time apart.

We are looking for suggestions for our monthly **Share the Plate** recipients. Our focus this year will be to pick charities that have some international aspect. We chose local and then national recipients over the previous two years. So think big, and send your suggestions to Deacons@fculittle.org.

I want to give a warm welcome to our newest member of the Deacons, **Kris Erslund**. It is a pleasure to have you on the team. And finally, another big **Thank You to Prisl Dumka** for her service as a Deacon for the past four years. It's been a joy working with you (and now I get to write these notes in the bulletin).

Peace,
Jon Welch, for the Deacons

Standing Committee Notes

We want you to know about a slight change in the Country Fair. Due to an illness—now, thankfully, behind her!—**Monica Pilman** has relinquished the Fair Queen crown, and **Laura Semple** has graciously offered to take on the role.

Thank you both for all your work on this important fundraiser and cherished tradition!

And **thanks to all of you** volunteers who make our Country Fair the fabulous success we know it will be. With Monica's great planning we are in good shape, but we will need every bit of help to pull it all together, so please be ready to answer the call. See you in September!

Melissa Baern, for the Standing Committee

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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?



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.

People with trucks and trailers are especially needed! You can arrive at any time and there will be a job for you. See Laura Semple 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.

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.

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 Laura Semple 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 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. See below for instructions on donating jewelry.

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?

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.



Jewelry Booth Donations

Friends, please

- gather up any jewelry in good condition to donate to our Country Fair,
- sort in small plastic bags, and
- leave in a package marked **Jewelry for Fair** in the volunteer room at church or deliver to me in Nagog Woods.
- Ask your friends and relatives for theirs as well!
- The deadline for donations is before the sorting occurs on **Friday, Sept. 11.**

Thanks!

Niela Miller, Jewelry Booth coordinator
978-264-4565



Hey
there!

Got an event, committee meeting, or other notice for September's *Bulletin*?

Be sure to submit your copy to bulletin@fcu.org by August 17.

When your editor heads back to her classroom in September, deadlines get serious!

Thanks!
Deborah Niles, Bulletin Editor



WARNING
Deadlines in schedule
are closer than they
appear



Kids Matter(s)

Fall Check List

- ✓ **Fill out and return SD registration.** This was sent out by email to families last month along with a description of the curricula/programs being offered. If you need another copy, let me know.

- ✓ **Support our SD program:**

- Teach or help with Sunday morning
- Substitute
- Nursery caregiver
- Supply shopper
- SD committee member
- Special events helper
- Bulletin board creator
- Activity basket maintainer

Non-parenting adults are also encouraged to volunteer.



- ✓ **Sunday, September 13:** Water Communion Multigenerational Worship: Welcome back! Bring a bit of water from the summer to share.
- ✓ **Sunday, September 20:** Family Gathering and Potluck following the worship service. Mark your calendars and watch for details.

With anticipation,

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>INTERIM MINISTER Rev. Steve Edington interimminister@fcu.org</p> <p>DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT Vicki Merriam dsd@fculittle.org</p> <p>MUSIC DIRECTOR Molly Lozeau music@fculittle.org</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> 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> 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/ma ilman/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>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>OTHER FCU CONTACTS</p> <p>LAY PASTORAL MINISTERS <i>Lay Ministers offer a listening ear and pastoral attention to members of the congregation.</i> 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. bulletin@fculittle.org</p> <p>❖ 3rd Tuesday of each month, 1 p.m. ❖ Next deadline: Tuesday, August 17, 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

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office@fculittle.org

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August 2015 Issue

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