



# Community Matters



**October 23, 2016 - Rev. Steve Edington**

## **Just What is Atheism?**

As one of the items at last Spring's Goods and Services Auction, I offered a sermon of one's choice - and somebody even paid money for it! The request is that I speak to the nature of Atheism: What I think it is, and where it "fits" in the overall UU gestalt. To put in personal terms, if one goes by the most common understanding of the term, I would largely be considered an atheist myself; but it's still not a label I can quite claim. I'll offer my thoughts on what I consider an "honest atheism" to be - and the ways in which I do and do not resonate with it.



Welcome Visitors!

*We are happy to have you with us today at First Church Unitarian, Littleton!*

## **Religious Education Program; Children and Youth Sunday, October 23 2016**

**Worship-** "Me and Dog" by Gene Weingarten

*After "A Time for All Ages", children will leave the Sanctuary for their own program.*

**Primary & Elementary - Love Will Guide Us:** "We Are Loved, Flaws and All"; Source Star—Sense of Awe and Wonder

We will reinforce the idea that despite human failings we are all loved and loveable; use games and crafts to transform apparent flaws into beauty, strength, or other positive attributes; understand the possibility of beauty in imperfection through a story, "The Scratched Diamond"; and explore ways a human characteristic we usually perceive as negative can also have a positive side, e.g., stubbornness can also be persistence.

**Intermediate - Spirit of Adventure:** "Medicine - Saving Lives and Learning First Aid"; UU Principle and Source: Be kind in all you do, help each other learn, and remember people whose lives remind us to be kind and fair.

We'll empower children to think of the safety of others as a way to care for the community, hear the story of Elizabeth Blackwell, Unitarian and first woman physician of modern medicine, and update our classroom 1st aid kits.

**Junior Youth Group:** "Breakfast Club" - Meets today.

**Senior Youth Group** - Meets in 2 weeks 11/6.

**Next week** - "A Day of Remembrance"; multigenerational worship service. Bring a photo or memento of a loved one (human or animal) for the altar we will create. The children will "Trick or Treat" for UNICEF during coffee hour. All are encouraged to come in costume.



**This Week  
at a Glance**

### **Sunday, October 23**

- 9:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. - Multicultural  
Ministries Committee
- 4:30 p.m. - Gurukool
- 6:00 p.m. - Gurukool
- 7:00 p.m. - Men's Group

### **Monday, October 24**

- 6:30 p.m. - Artemis
- 7:00 p.m. - Survivors of Suicide  
Support Group
- 7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting

### **Tuesday, October 25**

- 10:00 a.m. - Fiber Fanatics
- 6:15 p.m. - Gurukool
- 7:00 p.m. - Jammin'
- 7:00 p.m. - Worship Associates

### **Wednesday, October 26**

- 7:00 p.m. - Yoga
- 7:00 p.m. - Al-Anon
- 7:00 p.m. - Soul Matters (BR)

### **Thursday, October 27**

- 6:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. - Building Committee
- 7:00 p.m. - Energy Medicine Study
- 7:30 p.m. - Mixed Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday, October 29**

- 8:00 a.m. - CoDA NE Fall  
Intergroup Fall Assembly

**Lay Pastoral Ministry** If you could use a listening ear, our Lay Pastoral Ministers are ready to assist you. **For information, speak with today's Lay Pastoral Minister, Malcolm Kroh;** see the Lay Pastoral Ministry bulletin board in the Vestry; visit Lay Pastoral Ministry on our website at [www.fculture.org](http://www.fculture.org), or email [laypastoralmin@fculture.org](mailto:laypastoralmin@fculture.org).





**Are you interested in building beloved community?**

**The Multicultural Ministries Committee (MMC) is looking for new members!**

The congregation chartered the MMC to facilitate FCU's journey toward its vision of becoming a vibrant, loving, diverse community. By engaging in and offering opportunities for individual and institutional growth, the MMC invites all those connected to the FCU community to embrace and explore ways to focus on anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multicultural ministries as an integral part of our church life.

Please consider joining us this Fall while we're in the planning stage for this year's adventure! If you think you might be interested, call either Betsy Read (508-935-9234) or Caroline Marvin (617-899-1290).

Come to one of our meetings on October 23 or November 20 for an opportunity to meet us as a group and hear and experience the many ways we endeavor to live out our FCU Charter. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Fiber Fanatics**

**Second and fourth Tuesdays every month**, 10:00 a.m. - noon in the Alliance Room

If you enjoy knitting, crocheting or other fibery work and have some free time, bring a project and join us! For more information contact [kersland1@gmail.com](mailto:kersland1@gmail.com).



**Caring for Our Aging Parents (COAP) First Monday** of the month, from 7-9 p.m., in the Alliance Room. This has grown into a close, supportive group for those of us dealing with issues related to caring for aging loved ones. Newcomers are warmly welcomed. Keep in mind that this is truly a support group with no agenda or goals. For more info contact: [COAP@fculittle.org](mailto:COAP@fculittle.org)



The FCU directory of members and friends will be updating soon. Look for it at [fculittle.org](http://fculittle.org) and take a minute to review your information. If you need to change or add anything please send an email to the church at [office@fculittle.org](mailto:office@fculittle.org).



Membership indicates your commitment to this community, agreement with our covenant and Unitarian Universalism, and financial and volunteer support consistent with your means. To learn more, please see anyone on the Member Reach Committee or pick up a path to Membership guide at the greeter's table.

When ready, you are invited to sign the Membership Book on the first Sunday of any month, Membership Sunday. For more information, please contact, [Memberreach@fculittle.org](mailto:Memberreach@fculittle.org).

**PARKING:** As you all know, the pending rebuilding of the fire station will require a plan to handle the parking situation during construction. Bill Duston has generously agreed to take on this challenge. If anyone would like to work with Bill on this initiative, please be in touch with him. Thanks, Deb Girard, Standing Committee Chair

Please remember Loaves and Fishes by bringing an item with you to Sunday service. The items may be left in the front entryway. Let's do our part each week to help our neighbors especially as the weather gets colder. Items of a higher need this week are: Size 6 diapers, Ladies deodorant, Toothbrushes, and Shaving Needs.



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Men's Group meets this Sunday 7 pm in the Alliance Room. New members welcome.



**Announcements for Community Matters must be submitted each week no later than 9:00 a.m. on Thursday.**