



Community Matters



November 6, 2016 - Rev. Steve Edington

A Pre-Election Reflection

This is a sermon topic I return to on the Sunday prior to a Presidential election, as I've done it throughout my years in the UU parish ministry. This will be my 10th one. While I've always had my preference as to the candidates, I try to put that on the back burner and speak to the issues and challenges before our country that I feel an incoming President will face. This one is different. What this election has revealed is that there is a significant segment of our population that feels so alienated, so angry, and so disconnected from the mainstream, that the level of polarization within our nation is disturbingly high to the point of posing a challenge to our overall social fabric. This is the issue that will need to be addressed once this near unbearably election season comes to a close.



Welcome Visitors!

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



Religious Education Program; Children and Youth Sunday, November 6, 2016



Worship - "Duck for President"

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", part 2; Source Star - Sense of Awe and Wonder. We will reinforce the idea that despite human failings we are all loved and loveable; we'll decorate boxes that may be imperfect but hold special treasures; and think about the possibility of beauty in Imperfection.

Intermediate - Spirit of Adventure: "Medicine—Saving Lives and Learning First Aid", part 2; 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. Following up on our visit with the EMTs, 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 first aid kits.

Junior Youth Group - Meets next week.

Senior Youth Group - Group meets today, 11/6, after the pancake breakfast.

Next Week - Chapel Sunday, Sharing Our Stories

Pot-luck and Game Night - Come one, come all on Saturday November 11th at 6 pm in the Vestry!



Sunday, November 6

- 8:30 a.m. - SYG Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. - Senior Youth Group
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. - Shamanic Journey
- 6:00 p.m. - Gurukool
- 7:00 p.m. - Men's Group

Monday, November 7

- 6:30 p.m. - Artemis
- 7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. - Caring for Our Aging Parents

Tuesday, November 8

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

Wednesday, November 9

- 7:00 p.m. - Al-Anon
- 7:00 p.m. - Yoga

Thursday, November 10

- 7:00 p.m. - Ministerial Search Committee
- 7:00 p.m. - Energy Medicine
- 7:30 p.m. - Council of Social Justice
- 7:30 p.m. - Mixed Choir Rehearsal

Friday, November 11

- 7:00 p.m. - Sacred Circle Dance

Saturday, November 12

- 9:00 a.m. - CoDA
- 10:00 a.m. - Women's Alliance Meeting, Lunch and Program

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, Patti Sardella;** see the Lay Pastoral Ministry bulletin board in the Vestry; visit Lay Pastoral Ministry on our website at www.fculture.org, or email laypastoralmin@fculture.org.



Wanted: FCU-ers involved in justice: Did you know that FCU has a dedicated income stream to support the justice activities of FCU members and friends? If you are taking action to promote justice and the interdependent web of life in our community and need financial support for your activities, the Council on Social Justice (CSJ) can help you. We want to know what you are up to. Our next meeting is **Thursday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Volunteer Center** (formerly the church office). Let us know how you are impacting the community and how we can partner with you. Questions or comments, please contact Susan Tordella, chair of the CSJ. You can reach her by email, Susan.tordella@gmail.com or cell phone, 978-846-2811. We are in need of help in our Toastmasters program at the Gardner prison. After three years of leading this effort, Cindy Heiland is stepping down. We need to replace her presence in Gardner every Wednesday night 6-9 p.m.. We need YOU to volunteer one to four times a month. Some things to consider: Gardner is only 20 minutes from rte. 2 and we carpool from the Harvard post office, you can be a new toastmaster by learning the program, you can try it once with no obligation, you should have a sense of humor and you will make new friends. Contact Susan to learn more!

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 kerslandl@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



Sacred Circle Dance - Friday, November 11, 6:00 p.m. in the Vestry

Let's mark this month of Thanksgiving with some gentle grounding dances to enable gratitude and some gentle uplifting dances to enable celebration of blessings. We who have discovered Sacred Circle Dance are grateful for it, and let's share that with newcomers. No experience needed—all dances are taught. You may bring a symbol of your own "thanksgiving-ness" for our Gratitude Table. Community Circle 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., with more challenging dances at 6:00 p.m.. Bring a willing spirit and don't forget your water bottle! For more info email Circle@fculittle.org.



Ministerial Search Team - What are you doing next Sunday?

Your Ministerial Search Team hopes you'll be joining us for **Beyond Categorical Thinking**. With the help of our Multicultural Ministry friends we'll be serving a delicious lunch right after the service. The workshop will take place from 12-3 p.m.. Child care will be available.

Sunday, November 13th - Beyond Categorical Thinking

We expect that BCT will provide an opportunity for all of us to learn more about the search process, to explore our hopes and concerns for a new minister, and see how our own history (both personal and congregational) might interfere with or enhance our efforts in this vital endeavor.

Living the Covenant of Right Relations Session 2:

The Clearing Model—A Method for Resolving Conflict and Enhancing Connection.

Please join us on Sunday, November 20, 6-8p.m. in the Alliance Room as Caprice and Brian Tarbox facilitate the second in this series of eight sessions. The group meets to discuss and practice ways to live FCU's Covenant of Right Relations. We will introduce the Clearing Model, which we learned respectively Women Within and The Mankind Project. Our goal for the session is to present a model for resolving conflict that acknowledges that we do in fact sometimes have conflict and that facing it lets us move past it to build relationship connections as a way of living the Covenant of Right Relations.

Please remember Loaves and Fishes by bringing an item or two with you to Sunday service. The items may be left in the bins in the front vestibule. 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: Ensure, Feminine Care Products, baking items, size 4 or larger diapers.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

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