



Community Matters



December 11, 2016

A Season for Myth and Fantasy Rev. Steve Edington

Just as we humans do not live by bread alone, neither do we live by reason and fact alone. We need a place in our lives for myth and fantasy, and that is never more true than when it comes to the stories and the celebrations we hear and observe at this time of the year. To pick up on this month's theme, it is through myth, fantasy, and ritual that we experience the presence of the holy and the sacred in our lives. I'll draw on some of the insights of the late Dr. Joseph Campbell (*The Power of Myth*) in exploring this topic.



Welcome Visitors!

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

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, Jim Nehring;** 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.



Religious Education Program; Children and Youth Sunday, December 11, 2016

Worship - "A Wish for Wings that Work" Berkeley Breathed

Children will leave for their program following a Time For All Ages



Primary & Elementary - Love Will Guide Us: "Love is Accepting" This session focuses on the fourth Unitarian Universalist Source, expressed in children's language as "Jewish teachings which tell us to love all others as we love ourselves." The story from Hebrew scripture of Jacob and Rachel meeting for the first time highlights the importance of questioning gender stereotypes. UUs believe we should accept everyone as we would want to be accepted.

Intermediate - Spirit of Adventure: "The Message in Christmas Music" Singing, playing and listening to music can help us focus on what we are experiencing right now. However, music can also connect out present to our past through our memories. Many Christmas carols were written by Unitarians who turned their fear and sadness into a message of peace on Earth, goodwill to all, which we are still working toward in this present day.

Junior Youth Group - Group meets this week to share ideas about the holiday season and help prepare for the Pageant.

Senior Youth Group - Group meets next week.

Pageant - Costumes and scripts distributed today during coffee hour in the Sanctuary.

Next Week - Holiday Multigenerational Worship, "Festival of Light". We will celebrate Advent/Christmas, Solstice/Yule, and Hanukkah with the lighting of candles, songs, and latkes (during coffee hour). Bring mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, underwear, etc. to put under the tree for the shelter.

Pageant rehearsal in Sanctuary during coffee hour.



This Week
at a Glance

Sunday, December 11

- 8:00 a.m. - Women's Alliance
Holiday Sale
- 9:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. - Pageant Rehearsal
- 11:30 a.m. - Multicultural Ministries
- 1:00 p.m. - OWL
- 3:00 p.m. - Shamanic Journey
Circle

Monday, December 12

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

Tuesday, December 13

- 10:00 a.m. - Fiber Fanatics
- 7:00 p.m. - Standing Committee

Wednesday, December 14

- 7:00 p.m. - Al-Anon
- 7:00 p.m. - Yoga
- 7:00 p.m. - Member Reach Committee

Thursday, December 15

- 6:45 p.m. - Gurukool
- 7:00 p.m. - Ministerial Search Committee
- 7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 16

- 5:00 p.m. - Gurukool

Saturday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. - CoDA
- 6:45 p.m. - Yule Celebration



Tomorrow Night!

Please join us for our monthly pot-luck and game night, Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Cookies for Neighborhood Supper: In keeping with our holiday tradition of giving small gifts to our friends at the Supper, we are asking for donations of Christmas Cookies for our December meal. Cookies can be dropped off at FCU (please label for NS) prior to the day of the supper, December 20th, at the Congregational Church by 2:00 p.m. on the day, or contact Kris Ersland at neighborhood@fculittle.org or 978-486-0574 to make other arrangements. As always, brownies are needed and appreciated! Thank you for your support in making the Neighborhood Supper a welcoming place in our community. ~Kris Ersland on behalf of the Neighborhood Supper



Littleton Council of Churches: The Littleton Council of Churches is gearing up to provide the traditional December programs. To learn more about the Council check out it's website at www.littletonchurchs.org. Rev. Steve and Debbie Eston are representing FCU this year. We welcome your questions and suggestions. If you would like to serve as a representative, please let us know by emailing us at lcoc@fculittle.org or by contacting one of us directly

December Holiday Gifts for Teens at McLean Hospital: Gifts are being picked up **today at 12:30 p.m.** Val Hadden, coordinator of this program, and I deeply appreciate the support FCU has given.

December's Holiday Star Program: Gifts can be placed under the tree in either the Vestry or Sanctuary up until **2 pm today (December 11)** to provide a bit more time given the delay in providing the list to choose from. Your support of this program is deeply appreciated by Loaves and Fishes.

~ Debbie Eston, for the FCU representatives to the Littleton Council of Churches



Yule Celebration - December 17, 2016

Come ~ Celebrate Yule on Saturday, December 17th at 6:45 p.m.. We will gather in the Vestry and at 7 p.m. walk together to the downstairs dining room to quietly begin the celebration. In the sacred circle of community, we witness the eternal cycle of life, honor the darkness and welcome the return of light! Children are welcome.



~Debbie Eston for the Deacons

Have you been wondering what is planned here at **FCU on Christmas Day and New Year's Day** since both are on a Sunday? Wonder no more...

Christmas Morning Gathering - December 25th at 10 am

Join us on Christmas morning for a joyful gathering in the Vestry filling it with music, song, readings and the sharing of thoughts on three questions:

- What do you celebrate when you celebrate Christmas?
- What parts of the Christmas Story are meaningful to you?
- In what ways does the Christmas Story touch you?

A New Year's Potpourri - January 2, 2017 - at 10 am

This service will be lead by the Deacons. You are invited to bring the gift of a brief reading, poem, meditation, etc. that has become especially meaningful to you over the years. During the "Sermon" portion of the service, as time permits, you'll have an opportunity to share your reading/gift with those attending this service as we move into a New Year.

Debbie Eston, Kris Ersland and Lynn Courtney ~ Deacons

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