



*Community Matters*

**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**

**October 27, 2019**

**This Sunday, October 27, at 10:00 a.m.**

**"God Is Not God's Name"**

The sermon title is also the title of a recently published book by Rev. Steve Edington. It traces his religious and spiritual journey from an evangelical Baptist church in southern West Virginia to a forty-year career as a Unitarian Universalist minister and offers some of the insights and conclusions he has come to along the way. Steve's sermon has to do with how we explore and cultivate a relationship with that which we sense is greater than ourselves without getting too ensnared in religious language or terminology. It is part of our human condition to look beyond ourselves for some greater meaning or purpose in our lives. Our various religions have sought to deal with this condition — and it is a condition we all encounter however “religious” or not we may consider ourselves to be.

Steve is the Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, New Hampshire — a congregation he served for twenty-four years. He has also been an interim minister for several New England UU congregations — including a very delightful time at FCU!

Currently Steve is the quarter-time consulting minister for the UU Church of Franklin, New Hampshire. Steve and his wife, Michele, live in Nashua.

**Religious Education for Children and Youth: KidSpace**

**This Sunday, October 27** - All belong in our circle. We'll make food to share at the Sunday Social and Committee Fair following worship when we will “Trick or Treat” for UNICEF. Wear costumes!

Helper: Darra Sweetser

**Next Sunday, November 3** - Paying attention. We'll make glitter mindfulness jars—watching the glitter settle is a way of maintaining mindfulness and paying attention to being centered. We'll also play Simon Says, a game where one has to pay attention. Helper: Jennifer Banks

**The Committee on Ministries is hosting a Coffee Hour Event this Sunday, October 27th: *Getting Involved in Your FCU Community.***

Our church is growing! It is an opportune time to educate new members and remind our seasoned members about all the FCU programming that helps deepen our connection to one another. *Getting Involved in Your FCU Community* will be held in conjunction with the coffee hour and the COM will provide basic snacks and coffee. Each group will have a table sign with the group's name and sign up sheets for those interested.

We would like all committee chairs and folks who coordinate activities to have a representative at a table to share information about your group with people who might be interested in joining. Be prepared to talk about your group. Here are a few items you might want to discuss at this event:

What is your committee or activity called? Describe your mission, tell about any special plans for the year, any fun traditions and explain why folks might want to join. When does it meet? Contact person/s email/ phone. Please RSVP to [com@fculittle.org](mailto:com@fculittle.org) before 3:00 p.m., Friday, October 25.

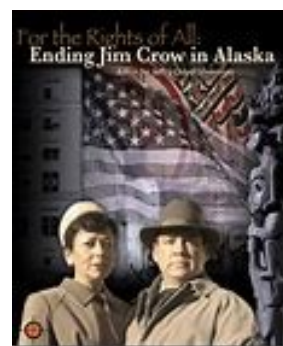
**A request from the Groton UU youth**

We are collecting gently used men's clothing, unisex clothing and outerwear and toiletries for CityReach/ Common Cathedral. [cityreach.org](http://cityreach.org). Please bring your donations to FCU and place them in the marked box in the vestry no later than this Sunday, October 27. The DRE and Youth at Groton UU really appreciate our support of City/Reach.

**We hope to see you in church on Sunday morning.  
First Church Unitarian is a wonderful place to be.**

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**FCU Racial Justice Action Committee**  
**Film and Discussion Series**  
*For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska*  
**This Saturday, October 26, 7:00 - 9:30 PM**



Elizabeth Peratrovich, an unassuming Tlingit mother of three, testified before the Alaska Territorial Senate in 1945 and swayed the floor vote with her compelling testimony in favor of the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act, the first civil rights bill passed in the United States since the Civil War.

This free film series explores the lives and experiences of the “other” and expands our awareness of our neighbors as well as often marginalized individuals and groups. Please join us for a lively discussion. All are welcome to join us in the Vestry at FCU.

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**Embracing Social Justice**  
**Sunday, November 3, 6:00 p.m.**

We will be showing the video, "Microaggressions in the Classroom." Microaggressions diminish all students and professors in the classroom and in the world. You will learn the 3 types of microaggressions and how to change them. Visit this link for more information: [uuare.org/microaggressions](http://uuare.org/microaggressions)

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**What is the Truth About Carbon Pricing?**  
**Thursday, November 7, 7:00 p.m., Harvard UU Fellowship Building**

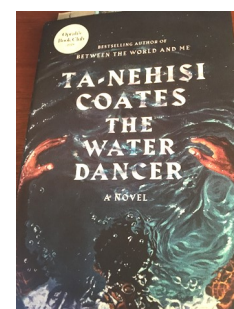
You know climate change is real and urgent. You may be fearful for the future but do you know what climate hope looks like? Do you know how climate solutions can make us better and stronger? Come hear David Radue and Bromfield graduate Ethan Payne in an information session about carbon pricing and a powerful tool for moving us away from fossil fuels. Learn about Citizen’s Climate Lobby and what is happening in Congress and the MA state legislature.

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**Recommended reading from the Racial Justice Action Committee**

***The Water Dancer* - A novel by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

This "is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen." A powerful book. Sometimes hard to take in because of the reality it depicts -- but an important experience.



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**Share-the-Plate Nominations**

Please send your nominations to [deacons@fculittle.org](mailto:deacons@fculittle.org). Tell us the name of the organization you're nominating, provide its web site and other contact information, and let us know if you have a particular person from that organization in mind to speak on its behalf. The one requirement (other than that it be a worthy organization) is that it have 501(c) 3 status with the IRS. Please speak to any of the Deacons - Andy Leyenaar, Cindy Malley or Lynn Courtney.

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**FCU Prison Ministry Team invites new volunteers**

If you're looking for a way to offer a hand up, connect with people outside of your race and class and make a difference, you are invited to join **FCU's Prison Toastmasters Ministry Team**. We need volunteers Monday to Thursday nights, in Shirley and Gardner [only 30 minutes away from Littleton], with start times of either 6:00, 6:30 or 6:45 pm. People new to Toastmasters are welcome. The most important thing is that you will show up at least twice a month, participate and learn the program as you go and care about the incarcerated people in our programs. The best way to find out if prison volunteering is for you is to visit once.

For information, visit <https://d31toastmastersprisonvolunteers.wordpress.com/>, speak to our volunteers at Coffee Hour- Peter and Lynn Cina, Mark Bucceri, Susan Tordella and Cindy Heiland, or send an email to [prisonministry@fculittle.org](mailto:prisonministry@fculittle.org)