



Community Matters

First Church Unitarian, Littleton

October 6, 2019

**This Sunday, October 6, at 10:00 a.m.
Animal Blessing Worship and Ceremony**



A whole congregation (multi-generational) worship service inspired by St. Francis. Together, we will honor all living things in recognition of our 7th UU Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Please bring your photos, stuffed animals, or other reminders of animals to the worship service; you can place them on a special altar if you wish. After the worship service, there will be a Blessing of the Animals on our lawn at 11:30 a.m. At this time, you may bring your pets (in addition to any photos, stuffed animals or other reminders of animals) to be blessed at this short ceremony.

(Please do not leave animals in cars but bring them only for the blessing ceremony!) Have your pets on leashes or in their cages, as appropriate.

Director of Religious Education, Vicki Merriam and Rev. Lara Hoke

**Women's Alliance
Saturday, October 5, 1:00 p.m.**

Rev. Lara Hoke has accepted our invitation to speak to the Women's Alliance and her presentation is titled "**Wrapped in the Flag and Carrying a Cross?**"

When Lara arrived at FCU, she was a little surprised to notice the U.S. and Commonwealth of Massachusetts flags in our sanctuary. When she asked a couple of people about the history of the flags, the most common response she heard was, "we have flags in our sanctuary?" Indeed, we do, in the back! There has long been a controversy in the United States about whether civic flags belong in these sacred sanctuary spaces. Lara's talk will consider the history of these flags in worship spaces and consider what it might mean in the 21st century.

The title of her talk is inspired by a quotation often attributed - possibly misattributed - to Sinclair Lewis: "When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross."

**Temporary Protective Status
Saturday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m.
Concord UU Church, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA**

Please join us for a viewing of the documentary "**The Last Dream**", an account of the making and presentation of a play created by the children of TPS holders to express how Trump's deportation order has affected them. Members of the cast and the TPS Alliance will be there to help us learn more about TPS and how to help our vulnerable neighbors.

**Embracing Racial Justice
Sunday, October 6, 6:00 p.m.**

Join us for our first monthly gathering to share a short video with a discussion to follow. We will also share resources, events and new awareness with each other. The video we will watch is *How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them*, a TED talk by Verna Myers. The discussion will be facilitated by Araya Fast and Lori Grant.

Hospitality Opportunities

Each Sunday, FCU needs volunteers for several important jobs that help with our Service and Fellowship. You can choose from bringing flowers, serving as an usher, setting up for coffee so that it is ready after the service or cleaning up after coffee hour. Please take a moment to claim your spots using either the [SignUp.com](https://www.signup.com) link on the FCU home page or the Sign Up Board in the Vestry.

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

Share-the-Plate Nominations

We have just a few nominations left over from last year for our monthly Share-the-Plate program. We will consider them along with your new proposals for recipients for this year.

Please send your nominations to 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.

Artemis Singers, FCU's Women's Chorus

Weekly rehearsals are on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Singers of all abilities are welcome to join this "chorus and support" group. Contact Carolyn McCreary at artemis@fculittle.org for information.

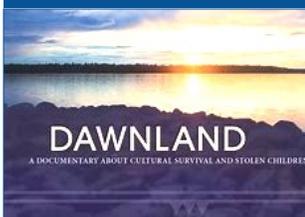
We welcome you to join the Church Choir!

We meet weekly to rehearse on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m., and we sing during the Sunday morning services. This is a great opportunity to make music, develop friendships and learn something new. No previous musical experience necessary. For more information, contact Molly at music@fculittle.org.

Autumn Sacred Circle Dance Friday, October 11, in the Vestry

Community Circle 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., more challenging dances at 6:00

Now that we're actually in Autumn, let's observe it with some special dances and some good fellowship. We will dance in honor of the harvest, the Equinox and the trees. ALL dances are taught, no experience is needed, newcomers are welcome. Bring your water bottle and a willing spirit.



Indigenous Peoples' Day Screening of *Dawnland* 2019 News and Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Research Monday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.

For most of the 20th century, government agents systematically forced Native American children from their homes and placed them with white families. As recently as the 1970's, one in four Native children nationwide were living in non-Native foster care, adoptive homes, or boarding schools. Many children experienced devastating emotional and physical harm by adults who mistreated them and tried to erase their cultural identity.

Now, for the first time, they are being asked to share their stories. In Maine, a historic investigation—the first government-sanctioned truth and reconciliation commission (TRC) in the United States—begins a bold journey. For over two years, Native and non-Native commissioners travel across Maine. They gather testimony and bear witness to the devastating impact of the state's child welfare practices on families in Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribal communities. Collectively, these tribes make up the Wabanaki people.

Fun, Food and Fellowship Friday, October 18, 6:00 p.m.

These potlucks are a great, no-agenda, intergenerational way to deepen our connections, share a meal, play games and have FUN! They are for singles, couples, and families, and are an opportunity to bring people who might be interested in our church. Bring food (homemade or store-bought) or drinks to share. If you have games, bring them too! We roughly coordinate the food so we don't end up having an all-cookie dinner, but feel free to show up last-minute anyway. For each date, a reminder with a sign-up sheet will be sent.



**Rev. Lara blows the shofar for our
"UU Appreciation of Rosh Hashana"
service on September 29 (left). To the right, Lara leads
a Tashlich-inspired ritual of casting using dissolving paper.**

