



Community Matters

First Church Unitarian, Littleton

September 20, 2020

Join us Sunday, September 20 at 10:00 for “New Again”!

It was so wonderful to be together again, virtually, for our Ingathering Sunday and Virtual Water Communion Service last week! I’m really looking forward to joining you again this week. We are using “Soul Matters” themes this year, and the theme for September is “renewal”. **We plan to use YouTube Live for our service and will send out that link on Sunday morning around 9:45 a.m.** as we did last week. You can also go to <https://www.youtube.com/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton/> and click on the video that says "live". (If that doesn't work, Plan B is that we will use Facebook Live and send out the new link on the listserve.) The Order of Service will also be included in the email.

If you wish to come on a few minutes early (say, 9:57 this week), we will be showing a gathering video.

There will be a (Zoom) Joys and Concerns and Virtual Coffee Hour after the service and that link information will also be included in the Sunday morning listserve email. Barring something unforeseen, the Joys and Concerns link will be the same each week:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dial by your location
REDACTED

[REDACTED]

You can also use the Meeting ID and Password if you try to “Join Meeting” in Zoom. I hope to "see" you then!

With love and anticipation,
Rev. Lara (email Lara for the Zoom info)



**Religious
Education
Corner**

Everything old is new again. ~ Peter Allen

We have a new date for our ingathering! We’ll meet on Monday, September 21 at 3:30 outside the church for our own water communion. Remember to bring your mask and water!

Zoom RE Gathering!

On Sunday, September 27, we’ll have a Zoom get together from 9:00-9:40 (before church service), led by Emily and Karen. The theme is RENEWAL with OUR UNIQUE SELVES. In our faith, we renew ourselves by being true to ourselves. We celebrate the “worth and dignity of every person.” Join us as we explore what this means and share our unique selves. The Zoom link will be sent out later.

Celebrate at Home

International Peace Day and World Gratitude Day is September 21. Make a PEACE PLEDGE: <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/get-involved/children-and-youth> <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/world-gratitude-day>

Time For All Ages

Would your family like to be our chalice lighter? Reverend Lara will be reaching out to families to virtually light our weekly chalice and lead us in saying our covenant. You can even record it in advance if that’s better for you.

We’re also looking for volunteer readers for TFAA. Give a shout out if you’re interested!

Save the October dates:

In-person gathering: 10/9 (rain date 10/12)

Zoom gathering: 10/25

The RE Committee,
Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

Change and renewal are themes in life, aren’t they? We keep growing throughout life. ~ Susan Minot

We look forward to “seeing” you in church.

First Church Unitarian is a wonderful community to be part of.

Please send me your photos!

I will continue to make gathering videos this year, and I need more photos! I'm happy to have photos of you at FCU doing FCU-things, but actually I'm also happy to have pictures of you now, doing the things you do. Everyone misses seeing each other's faces, but this can help. So don't be shy! Email photos to me at minister@fculittle.org. – Rev. Lara

Racial Justice Action Committee Project

People are literally dying in the streets of America, in cities and in small towns. We invite you to join us in opening our hearts and minds to the injustices in America, as we read and discuss the book, *White Fragility*, "Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism" by Robin Diangelo. As a predominately white UU community, let's be on the right side of history and step into our power and make a difference.

The Project begins on Oct. 3rd, meeting bi weekly for 5 sessions (times and nights will be decided based on members availability). The first meeting session we will meet as a large group. The following sessions will be small groups which will determine their own meeting times. All we ask is that you come with an open heart and an open mind.

To register email Carolyn McCreary at CLMcCreary@comcast.net

We look forward to learning, growing, and being the change we want to see in the world.

Sincerely,

The RJAC

Looking for Sunday Service participants!

We had fun in our summer services sharing our gifts of story-telling and reading and music, and we want that to continue! If you would be willing to share a Time for All Ages, or a reading, or to perform music, or anything else, please do let me know. Send me an email and let me know the sort of sharing you'd be willing to do, and if you have any preliminary ideas. (I am also happy to give you ideas for the Time for All Ages or readings, etc.) Thank you! Please email me at minister@fculittle.org. – Rev. Lara

Small Group Ministry

We would like to offer Small Group Ministry opportunities this church year! What is Small Group Ministry? The UUA website describes it like this: "Small group ministry is intentional, lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. Two key focuses are *intimacy*, or building community and deepening relationships, and *ultimacy*, or the opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning. Small group ministry is also called covenant group ministry, because the members in a group make an intentional commitment to one another."

Groups with no more than eight members come together (for now, on Zoom) usually twice a month. There is a facilitator for each meeting, which *can* rotate among group members. There is a check-in, and always some type of spiritual-growth focus. This is (as the UUA website notes) an opportunity to form deeper connections with other church members and friends, and an opportunity to go deeper.

Some groups will form around the Soul Matters themes. The Soul Matters themes this year are: renewal; deep listening; healing; stillness; imagination; Beloved Community; commitment; becoming; story; and play. For groups that form around Soul Matters, there is a wonderful curriculum and format for you to use that will make things much easier. Also, we will use Soul Matters themes this year for worship and RE, so it will be a way for the entire congregation to go deeper around these themes.

However, a Small Group Ministry can form around other themes and curricula as well. If you have an alternative theme/curricula in mind for a Small Group, please discuss it with me!

If you are interested in being part of a small group, please let me know. Please let me know if you are interested in a Soul Matters group, or if you have an idea for an alternative group. Email me at minister@fculittle.org. Once we have interested folks lined up, I will offer an "Introduction to Small Group Ministry" session. I will provide ongoing guidance to facilitators as well. – Rev. Lara