



*Community Matters*

**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**

**December 6, 2020**

**Join us Sunday, December 6 at 10:00 for “Stillness: An Appreciation of Zen Buddhism”!**

I'm really looking forward to joining you again this Sunday for “Stillness: An Appreciation of Zen Buddhism”. This will start off the December Soul Matters theme of stillness. **Once again, we plan to use YouTube Live for our service.** You no longer need to wait for the Sunday morning email for the worship service link! Simply go to <http://youtube.com/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton/live> and the live video will come up! If you have trouble with that, you can also go to <https://www.youtube.com/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton/> and click on the video that says "live". (If YouTube Live isn't working, Plan B is that we will use Facebook Live and send out the new link on the listserv.) Usually the live video stream begins around 9:45, but there won't be much to see until 9:57 or so when the gathering video starts.

**There will again 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 listserv email. Barring something unforeseen, the Joys and Concerns link will be the same each week:  
[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



**December theme: Stillness**

Rekindle Hope by Watching for the Light

*Our faith asks us to remember our Indigo Promise: the miracle of the web of life. In the stillness of the Winter Solstice, we celebrate the returning of nature's light that brings hope.*

**December RE dates to remember:**

**SCHEDULE CHANGE** this week:

With increased safety concerns due to Covid, the RE class will meet virtually on Sunday instead of in person. We hope we can resume our in person get-togethers in the New Year!

Zoom RE Kid Gathering: Sunday, December 6th at 8:45-9:45 am-led by Emily, Karen, and Debbie (Zoom link will be sent separately)

We will see our Spirit of Life video. We will learn about the Solstice and play some games. Debbie will show us how to make lantern luminaries. Then we will drop off the supplies at your houses!

Zoom gathering: December 20, 8:45-9:45

The RE Committee,

Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

“Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”

~Albus Dumbledore

**We look forward to “seeing” you in church.  
First Church Unitarian is a wonderful community to be part of.**

## Vigil for Racial Justice \* Sunday \* 12/6 \* 2 PM \* Littleton Common

The Greater Littleton Interfaith Council is sponsoring a Vigil for Racial Justice on Sunday, December 6, from 2 to 3 PM. We'll meet on Littleton Common and the lawn in front of First Baptist Church; social distancing and masks are required. Bring signs (for justice, peace, civility, solidarity), a chair, and be together with us.

## Holiday Helpers Gift Giving Program

There's still time to support LPRCE's online Holiday Helper Gift Giving Program. Information on how to select a gift & deliver it directly to LPRCE by December 11th or make a monetary donation is available at <https://www.littletonma.org/parks-recreation/bulletins/holiday-helpers>.

The program was "created to help take some of the Holiday stress off of families in Littleton, MA that are struggling with finances". If you have questions please contact Debbie Eston



Littleton's Parks, Recreation and Community Education Department is in our 12th year of the Holiday Helper Gift Giving Program and would love your help!

## Christmas Cookies for Food is Love

It has been a tradition for many years, to give a gift of Christmas cookies to the guests at the Neighborhood Supper. We would love for this tradition to continue with Food is Love and are looking for donations of Christmas Cookies, the more the merrier! As with so much else this year, it will be a little bit more complicated than in the past. Rather than ask you to drop them off at the church, please contact me at [kersland1@gmail.com](mailto:kersland1@gmail.com) or [office@fculittle.org](mailto:office@fculittle.org) and we can arrange a time to pick up or drop off. The cooking crew will be assembling bags of assorted cookies on Friday, December 17.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

Kris Ersland, on behalf of Food is Love

## Caring for Our Aging Parents (COAP)

Please join us for Caring for Our Aging Parents this Monday from 7-9 p.m.

[REDACTED]

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](mailto:COAP@fculittle.org)

Submissions for Community Matters can be sent to [office@fculittle.org](mailto:office@fculittle.org)

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

## New Year's Potpourri Service, Adapted

On Sunday, December 27th, our Deacons will lead worship with our traditional New Year's Potpourri Service. Like always, it will be a more casual gathering on the first Sunday after Christmas. It will take place solely over Zoom and will not be broadcast via YouTube.

With it being virtual it will feel a little different but you will still have the same opportunity to share a meaningful poem or brief prose with our FCU family. Performing live music will be technically challenging. However, if you have a recording of a musical performance that is less than 4 minutes in length, it can be emailed to Cindy Malley at [hopefulandkind@gmail.com](mailto:hopefulandkind@gmail.com) for inclusion before Friday, December 18th.

It is possible our Deacons may need to be selective due to time constraints.

We hope you'll join us for this adapted annual tradition. Please watch for a zoom link to arrive via our listserv. If you have any questions, please reach out to Cindy Malley, Bill Duston, and/or Andy Leyenaar.

## FCU Arts Workshop

The FCU Arts Workshop will meet again on ZOOM on Saturday, January 9, from 11am-1pm. We do a different activity each time, talk about our creative process, do show-and-tell. If you want to join, please let Niela know before Xmas ([nielam@comcast.net](mailto:nielam@comcast.net) <<mailto:nielam@comcast.net>>) so she can send you the information you will need.

## From RJAC (Racial Justice Action Committee)

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE by Ijeoma Oluo. Great easy read book. She takes on many of the conversation subjects about race e.g. school to prison pipeline; being told to "check your privilege", clarifies with great stories from her life. And then demonstrates how a person might talk about it. So interesting and helpful.



## Church Calendar

The church building may be closed but there are a lot of upcoming events in the new church year. We'd like to include all of our events in the church calendar. If you have an event, meeting, etc., please submit a "Meeting Space Request" (under the Happenings section on the FCU website). Skip the "Space Requested" section, and, instead, enter in the "Notes" section either "Zoom" or "Offsite". If your event will be held offsite, you may include the actual location if you would like to see that information listed in the church calendar.

If you have any questions, please email [Office@fculittle.org](mailto:Office@fculittle.org). And don't forget to check the FCU calendar for upcoming events.

**Sunday, December 6, 2020**  
**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**  
*Stillness: An Appreciation of Zen Buddhism*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

(Gathering Video, featuring “Zen” by Sylvain Guinet, Arr. Molly Lozeau, around 9:57)

**Community Matters** (Emily Welch, Standing Committee)

**Prelude** “Aurora's Theme” from *Child of Light* by Béatrice Martin (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

**Call to Worship** words of Thich Nhat Hanh (Rev. Lara Hoke)

**Chalice Lighting and Covenant** (Elsa Milburn)

**Advent Wreath Lighting** (Lara)

**Words of Welcome** (Lara)

**Opening Hymn #184** “Be Ye Lamps unto Yourselves” (Molly)

**A Time for All Ages** “Under the Bodhi Tree: A Story of the Buddha” by Deborah Hopkinson and Illustrated by Kailey Whitman (Karen Tucker-Barisano)

**Opportunity for Generosity—Receiving Our Offering** (Lara)

**Offertory** “Monday” by Ludovico Einaudi (Molly)

**Homily** “Stillness: An Appreciation of Zen Buddhism” (Lara)

**Closing Hymn #1031** “Filled with Loving Kindness” (Molly)

**Closing Words** (Lara)

**Postlude** “Canon” by Johannes Pachelbel (Molly)

*Announcements/Joys & Concerns/Coffee Hour will follow on Zoom*

