



*Community Matters*

**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**

**February 14, 2021**

**Join us Sunday, February 14 at 10:00 for “Spirituality of Sacrifice”**

I look forward to seeing you again this Sunday! The Christian season of Lent begins next week, and so we will think together about the “Spirituality of Sacrifice”. **We will use YouTube Live for our service.** 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 listserve.) Usually the live video stream begins around 9:45, but there won't be much to see until 9:57 a.m. or so when the gathering video starts.

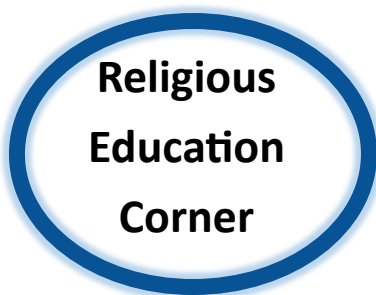
**There will again be a (Zoom) Joys and Concerns and Virtual Coffee Hour after the service** and that link information will also be included in the Sunday morning listserve email. Barring something unforeseen, the Joys and Concerns link will be the same each week:

[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 hope,  
Rev. Lara



**February theme: Beloved Community**

*A Beloved Community is a special kind of community where Black Leaders are honored.*

*Our faith is committed to building a world without racism. We are gaining insights into our faith from Black leaders about how to challenge racism by celebrating differences and standing up for equality.*

**February RE Dates to remember:**

Upcoming RE Zoom: Sunday, February 21

We will explore and learn about how to STAND UP FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. The Black Leader, John Lewis, will help us learn about how we can make a difference!

*Please remember to turn your camera on for our meetings. Thank you!*

On Monday, February 15 we celebrate Presidents' Day. The story of Presidents' Day date begins in 1800. Following the death of George Washington in 1799, his February 22 birthday became a perennial day of remembrance. While Washington's Birthday was an unofficial observance for most of the 1800s, it was not until the late 1870s that it became a federal holiday. The holiday initially only applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it was expanded to the whole country. The shift from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day began in the late 1960s.

Did you know? Presidents' Day never falls on the actual birthday of any American president. Four chief executives—George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln, and Ronald Reagan—were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or late to coincide with Presidents' Day, which is always celebrated on the third Monday of the month.

The RE Committee,

Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

“Doing nothing is a great way to change nothing.”  
“You don't need a cape to be a hero, you just need to care.”  
~Kid President

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

## Celebrating our Silver Linings, An Abundance of Gifts

FCU Stewardship Event--Saturday, February 27 from 4:30-6:00 pm via Zoom

Join us for this gathering of our beloved community to fulfill our continued financial stewardship of FCU while sharing a delicious "to go" meal and enjoying music, videos and conversation. We cannot wait to be together for this joyful event!

TWO DEADLINES requiring action--optional :

"TO GO" Meal--deadline for meal choice ordering February 19

Link for Menu Requests Here:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6132571/Stewardship-2021>

**Silver Linings Video--deadline for video submission February 21**

**Prepare a 10 second video (maximum 15 seconds for larger households). Please share one or two church-related pandemic silver linings you want to lift up as a member of this beloved church community. We hope you will use props, costumes, and other fun stuff.**

Link for Videos:

<https://tinyurl.com/FCUStewardshipVideos>

### **TROPHY CATEGORIES!!!**

**Get the Kleenex Tear-Jerker Award**

**"Hee Haw" Knee-Slappin' Funny Award**

**"Maltese Falcon" Props on the Props Award**

**Dazzle Me Darling Visual Effects Award**

**Highest Thread Count Costume Design Award**

**Not Just Another Sheep in the Flock Acting award**

**Pots and Pans Go Marching Two by Two Sound Award**

## Social Justice Moments

When it comes to social justice work, have you had a "Aha!" moment? Have you been surprised by a new experience or thought? Have you ever had something change your entire outlook?

RJAC is looking for people to share their experience with us on Sunday mornings. In 3-5 minutes, we can all benefit from your story around any social justice issue.

Would you share your moment with our FCU family? Please contact Cindy Malley via [hopefulandkind@gmail.com](mailto:hopefulandkind@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you.

## Share-the-Plate - February 21, 2021

Our February Share-the-Plate recipient is U Mass Lowell's Mary, Joan, and Nancy Scholarship for Courage and Compassion. The scholarship, created by Jim Nehring, goes each year to a student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell who plans to become a teacher and is the first generation in their family to attend college. More information will be provided in the Feb 17th Community Matters and Jim will speak during our worship service on the 21st.

To donate prior to the 21st or after: By mail, please make checks out to UMass Lowell and in the memo section write Mary, Joan, Nancy Scholarship.

Mail check to University Advancement  
UMass Lowell  
45 Lawrence Drive  
Lowell MA 01854

Or click here to donate online

<<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/UniversityofMassachusettsLowell/mary-joan-and-nancy-scholarship#updates>>

Thank you!!

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

**Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.**

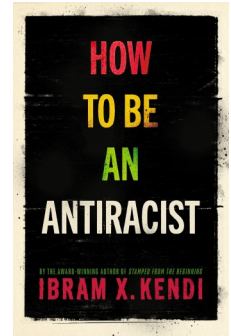
## From RJAC (Racial Justice Action Committee)

Submitted by Lorinda

Jane Elliot has a committed and passionate way to invite us white or white looking people to think about race.

Check out this video on YouTube:

**Black Nouveau | Exclusive | Jane Elliott Interview, Part 1**



## RJAC Congregational Read Will Start in March (date TBD)

We'll be reading **How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X Kendi** and following the format used for our reading of *White Fragility*—updated based on feedback from the participants.

For planning purposes we would like to get a sense of how many folks will be joining us in March. Please indicate your interest by emailing Lori Grant [lorigrant5@hotmail.com](mailto:lorigrant5@hotmail.com)

## Attention FCU Campers

We would love to continue our annual camping tradition the weekend prior to Labor Day weekend. This weekend begins Friday, August 27. Many of us reserve our site through the following Monday. This allows us to enjoy the campground all day on Sunday before the short trip home.

New Information has come from Reserve America regarding camping in MA. If you are planning on joining us for our annual camping trip at Lake Dennison, you should look to reserve your spot 4 months prior to your first day. We'll be in the North section of the park during the weekend starting August 27. If you have camped with us before, you know how beautiful this campground is. We have enjoyed swimming and kayaking in the lake, hiking nearby Mt. Monadnock, biking and, most of all, the company of our FCU friends.

Contact Joel or Pam for more information.

## Announcing the second Spiritual Physics Research Discussion Series

Zoom with us again in two weeks, the last Friday of the month Friday, Feb. 26, from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

The second discussion is titled: "For relativity, we all see things differently and we all can agree to parts of squares."

Rev. Lara Hoke will kindly provide a spiritual frame for the evening. Doug Sweetser will present for a general audience the core ideas behind relativity in physics. After presenting enough slides to explain this newly designed t-shirt in about a half-hour, the zoom room will be opened up for discussion and open-ended questions.

The Niela Miller Simple Math Rule remains in effect for all slides, with no math expressions more complicated than a square (one number times itself).

A \$5 donation for First Church Unitarian can be made here: <https://www.fculittle.org/donate-now/>, or send a check with "physics" in the memo line to FCU; 19 Foster St., Littleton, MA 01460. No donation is necessary for those who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Zoom link: [https://bit.ly/SPR\\_zoom](https://bit.ly/SPR_zoom)

passcode: [email Rev. Lara for passcode at [minister@fculittle.org](mailto:minister@fculittle.org)]

## FCU Arts Playshop

The FCU Arts Playshop will be Zooming on Saturday, March 13 from 11am-1pm. If you would like to join us, please contact Niela by March 1. She will send out the information about the playshop (i.e. focus and materials) the first week of March.

## Looking for Musical Offerings!

Do you have a musical offering that you would like to share during a church service? We are looking for folks that might enjoy singing a song, playing the guitar, ukulele, piano or whatever! You would need to choose your piece, practice on your own and then record yourself with audio and even video if possible. Then you could share it with Molly and we can find a musical slot in a future service. Upcoming Soul Matters themes include: Beloved Community, Commitment, Becoming, Story and Play. Rev. Lara and our IT volunteers will work to create a final video, with input from you and Molly. Reach out to [music@fculittle.org](mailto:music@fculittle.org) with your ideas and questions!

**Sunday, February 14, 2021**  
**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**  
*The Spirituality of Sacrifice*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

(Gathering Video, “My Funny Valentine”, Music by Richard Rodgers, performed by Molly Lozeau, Music Director - starts around 9:57 a.m.)

**Community Matters** (Cindy Malley, Deacon)

**Prelude** “Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen”, Traditional spiritual, with setting by Larry Shackley (Carolyn McCreary, piano and Mike McKendry, clarinet)

**Call to Worship** (Rev. Lara Hoke)

**Chalice Lighting and Covenant** (Lainey McManus)

**Words of Welcome** (Lara)

**Opening Hymn #188** “Come, Come, Whoever You Are” (Molly and Choir)

**A Time for All Ages** “Thank You, Omu!” written and illustrated by Oge Mora (Karen Tucker-Barisano)

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

**Offertory** “Theme” from Paganini Variations by Sergei Rachmaninoff (Molly)

**Reading** “Chess Lesson” by Robert Fulghum (Larry Licktieg)

**Musical Interlude** “I Cannot Count the Stars”, Words and Music by Eugene Butler (The Church Choir 2019)

**Homily** “The Spirituality of Sacrifice” (Lara)

**Closing Hymn #298** “Wake, Now, My Senses”

**Closing Words** (Lara)

**Postlude** “Wedding at Troldhaugen” by Edvard Grieg (Molly)

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

