



*Community Matters*

**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**

**February 21, 2021**

**Join us Sunday, February 21 at 10:00 for “This Must Be the Place: What Is Beloved Community?”**

I look forward to seeing you again this Sunday! This Sunday we will really dive into the Soul Matters theme of beloved community in part one of our two-part “This Must Be the Place” series. **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 listserv.) 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 listserv email. Barring something unforeseen, the Joys and Concerns link will be the same each week:

[REDACTED]

email [minister@fculittle.org](mailto:minister@fculittle.org) for Zoom info

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

**Religious  
Education  
Corner**

**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!

**March theme: Commitment**

**March RE dates to remember:**

Zoom gatherings:

March 7

March 21

This past Wednesday marked the start the Christian holiday Lent. Lent is the time of year when Christians prepare for Easter. It lasts for 40 days and ends 9 days before Easter, on a Friday. During Lent, many Christians fast, or go without regular meals. They do this in memory of Jesus Christ, who is said to have fasted for 40 days in the desert.

Many families stop eating meat on Fridays, or even for the whole time. Some people will “give up” something they enjoy, like candy. Could you give up candy for 40 days?

The RE Committee,

Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

“If there’s a book you really want to read, but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.”  
~Toni Morrison

**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!

**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**

## 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 is available on the last page of 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!!

## Silent Vigil for Racial Justice \* Sunday \* 2/21 \* 2PM \* Littleton Common

The Greater Littleton Interfaith Council is sponsoring a Silent Vigil for Racial Justice on Sunday, February 21, 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).

### Embracing Racial Justice

Embracing Racial Justice is happening again. Hurrah! Saturday February 20th at 6:30pm on zoom. We will be watching a YouTube video together over zoom, Silent Beats. It's a provocative video (only 5 minutes) and will result in a lively discussion. Come join us.

Topic: RJAC Embracing Racial Justice

Time: Feb. 20, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

[email [racialjustice@fculittle.org](mailto:racialjustice@fculittle.org) for Zoom info]

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

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

## Share-the-Plate

### Mary, Joan and Nancy Scholarship for Courage and Compassion

by Jim Nehring

Ten years ago, First Church members and friends generously supported me in a 4000 mile, solo bicycle journey from Boston to Seattle. The fundraising bike ride established an endowed scholarship at UMass Lowell for first generation college students planning a career in teaching. Ten years later, it is changing lives. So far, nine first-generation students who plan a career in teaching have been the recipient of the Mary, Joan, and Nancy Scholarship for courage and compassion.

College costs continue to rise, while income inequality grows wider. Fully one third of UMass Lowell undergrads are first generation college students, many from immigrant families who struggle to pay for college.

That's why this summer, I hope to double the scholarship endowment by rowing a boat I built myself 500 miles from New York City to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Over the last three summers, I've rowed approximately 430 miles. This summer, as a fundraising event, I'll make the final 70 mile sprint from Kitty Hawk to the Lighthouse at Cape Hatteras.

During our service this Sunday, I'll share more about the scholarship, the rowing journey, the financial need of our students, and lives changed.

Please give generously, whatever you can, and together we'll tag the lighthouse at Hatteras!

Details for donating are on page 2 of this Community Matters issue.

## 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.

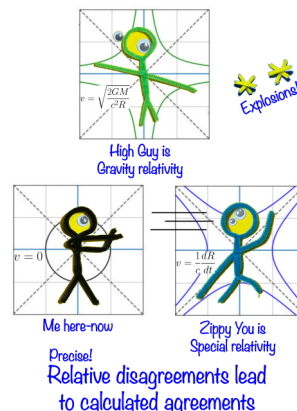
Zoom link: [https://bit.ly/SPR\\_zoom](https://bit.ly/SPR_zoom)

passcode: [email minister@fculittle.org for passcode]

site: [https://bit.ly/SPR\\_site](https://bit.ly/SPR_site)

slides: [https://bit.ly/SPR\\_slides](https://bit.ly/SPR_slides) videos: [https://bit.ly/SPR\\_videos](https://bit.ly/SPR_videos)

t-shirts: [https://bit.ly/SPR\\_t-shirts](https://bit.ly/SPR_t-shirts)



## 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)

## 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.

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**

**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**

***This Must Be the Place: What is Beloved Community?***

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

(Gathering Video, Excerpt from “Fantasie-Impromptu” by Frédéric Chopin  
(Molly Lozeau, Music Director, starts around 9:57 a.m.)

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

**Prelude** “Gathered Once Again” by Ken Langer (The Church Choir, 2019)

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

**Chalice Lighting and Covenant** (Vio Malley)

**Words of Welcome** (Lara)

**Opening Hymn #134** “Our World Is One World”

**A Time for All Ages** “The Day You Begin” by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrations  
by Rafael Lopez (Lori Grant)

**Opportunity for Generosity—Share-the-Plate** (Jim Nehring, for the Mary,  
Joan, and Nancy Scholarship at UMass Lowell, donate online here: [https://  
www.givecampus.com/campaigns/18506/donations/new](https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/18506/donations/new) and select designation  
“Mary, Joan, and Nancy Scholarship”).

**Offertory** “Go Down Moses / Wade in the Water”, traditional spirituals, jazz set-  
ting by Larry Shackley (Carolyn McCreary)

**Reading** excerpt from “The Role of the Church in Facing the Nation’s Chief  
Moral Dilemma” by Martin Luther King, Jr.  
(Caroline Marvin)

**Musical Interlude** “There is More Love  
Somewhere”, Arr. Bernice Johnson Reagon  
(members of The Church Choir)

**Homily** “This Must Be the Place: What Is  
Beloved Community?” (Lara)

**Closing Hymn #146** “Soon the Day Will Ar-  
rive”

**Closing Words** (Lara)

**Postlude** “Gamin” by William Grant Still  
(Karen Luttk, clarinet and Molly Lozeau,  
piano)

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

