



Community Matters

First Church Unitarian, Littleton

March 28, 2021

Join us Sunday, March 28 at 10:00 for “You Are Traffic”

I look forward to seeing you again this Sunday! This Sunday we finish the Soul Matters theme of commitment with “You Are Traffic.” **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 9:58 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]

email minister@fculittle.org for information

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**

April theme: Becoming

Zoom Gathering: Sunday, April 11 at 8:50-9:40 am

Finding Your True Self: Who Are You Becoming?

This Saturday night marks the start of Passover. In Judaism, Passover, or Pesach, celebrates the freedom of the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt. Thousands of years ago the early Jews, called Israelites, moved to Egypt, where they became slaves of the Egyptians. It is believed that Moses was chosen to go to the pharaoh, or king of Egypt, to demand that he free the Israelites from slavery. The pharaoh said no, so God sent down 10 plagues (or punishments) to force the king to change his mind. The word Passover comes from the 10th plague, in which the firstborn sons of the Egyptians were killed. The Israelites were spared from the plague because Moses had told them to mark their door posts so that the angel of death would pass over them. The son of Egypt's pharaoh died from the plague. In his grief the pharaoh ordered Moses and the Jews to leave Egypt.

The festival of Passover is one of great joy. It takes place for about one week in March or April. A special family meal called a Seder is held the first and sometimes the second night of Passover. Before the meal the story of Passover is told through the songs and prayer of the Haggadah, which is the book used during the Seder. The most important food of the holiday is matzo, which is a bread made with only flour and water. It is unleavened, which means that it is flat. This reminds the Jews of the bread the Israelites took with them when they fled Egypt for freedom. They did not have time to let it rise because they were in a hurry to leave.

(From Britannica Kids)

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

L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim

"Next year in Jerusalem," traditional phrase that is often sung at the end of the Passover Seder.

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

Maundy Thursday with Tenebrae (virtual)

Please join the Deacons, Rev. Lara, and Molly on **Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.** for our virtual Maundy Thursday Service with Tenebrae! This will be similar to the service we did last year, and again it will be on Zoom.

To join Zoom Meeting:

[REDACTED] email minister@fculittle.org for information

For the fullest and most meaningful participation, please have a piece of bread and a cup of either grape juice or wine by you during the service. We very much encourage you to sit in a darker room (with natural lighting only); we suggest sitting near a window so that you'll experience the light growing less. We also encourage you to have a candle (or chalice) lit by your side (if that feels safe to you). Rev. Lara will be in our sanctuary with 12 lit candles and will extinguish them one by one during the Tenebrae. If you have 12 candles at your home and would like to do that along with Lara, please do! (Again, only if you feel safe having candles lit in your home.) We hope to see you then for this evocative service, which will probably last about 30-40 minutes. Lara promises that Easter Sunday (April 4th) will feel more meaningful if you experience the Maundy Thursday service first!

From the Racial Justice Action Committee (RJAC)

If you haven't yet discovered the wonderful world of podcasts, you should definitely give it a try. It's typically free, you can find podcasts in every style and topic imaginable, and you can binge-listen like you would an audiobook or endless episodes of your favorite television show.

For RJAC, I would like to recommend a particular podcast called Code Switch, produced by NPR. It is an ongoing series of fearless conversations about race and hosted by journalists of color. They explore how race impacts every part of society including politics, history, pop culture, and everything in between. The most recent episode was titled "Screams and Silence" about the dramatic spike in anti-Asian racism.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/23/980437156/screams-and-silence>

For other episodes, you can find them on your favorite podcasting location or here:

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510312/codeswitch>

Submitted by Cindy Malley

Cottage Meetings Scheduled for Recommendation to Replace Heating System

Please attend one!



Drum Roll Please! After three years of research and discussion the Green Sanctuary Task Force is ready to make our recommendation for replacing our aging heating system with a new, energy efficient system! Four Zoom Cottage Meetings have been scheduled to discuss our decision and the financial implications of that decision. During the May Warranted Meeting we'll be proposing a budget item to pay for the Engineering Design. These Cottage Meetings are designed to inform you to vote on that budget request, so please plan on attending one of the following meetings:

Saturday, March 27, 6:30PM

Monday, March 29, 7PM

Wednesday, March 31, 7PM

Sunday, April 11, 11:30AM

The following zoom link will work for all four Cottage Meetings. Topic: GSTF Cottage Meeting

Topic: GSTF Cottage Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[REDACTED] email minister@fculittle.org for information

Next Mental Health Support Group Meeting on April 4 at 6PM

The Mental Health Support Group will be meeting on the first and third Sunday evenings at 6PM. The next support group is on April 4, Easter Sunday. We will not be meeting on March 28. This group is for people living with a mental illness and is restricted to FCU members. Come get the support you need to thrive in spite of your illness. For more information contact Patti Sardella at pjsardella56@gmail.com <<mailto:pjsardella56@gmail.com>> or (978) 621-1065.

Rochelle Chambless is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FCU MHSBG Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting. Meet on the first and third Sunday of the month at 6pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

[REDACTED] email minister@fculittle.org for information

Easter Yarnstorm!

All are welcome to participate in creating a bright, colorful Easter morning by yarnstorming FCU. We are joining the Congregational Church of Littleton, other Littleton churches and organizations by yarnstorming our respective properties with swaths of colorful yarn knitted or crocheted items, pompoms and yarn eggs. Through April 3rd you'll find a plastic bin beneath the office window to place your item(s) and/or yarn.

Yarn to share can be dropped off and/or be picked up on or before Saturday March 27th.

Yarn item(s) you've created can be dropped off through April 3rd at 6:30pm

The yarnstorm will begin at 6:30pm on April 3rd (masks required and social distancing will be observed). Items will be on display, weather permitting, for a few weeks. Please contact Debbie Eston if you would like some ideas, are available to yarnstorm on April 3rd, and/or have questions.

Caring for Our Aging Parents (COAP)

Please join us for Caring for Our Aging Parents Monday, April 5th, from 7-9 p.m. on Zoom.

[REDACTED] email COAP@fculittle.org for the Zoom information

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. We meet on the first Monday of each month. Keep in mind that this is truly a support group with no agenda or goals. For more info contact: COAP@fculittle.org

Submissions for Community Matters can be sent to office@fculittle.org

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

(Gathering Video, “Fellowship of the Ring Theme” by Howard Shore, performed by Molly Lozeau, starts 9:58 a.m.)

Community Matters (Emily Welch, Standing Committee)

Prelude “Drive My Car” by John Lennon and Paul McCartney (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

Call to Worship (Rev. Lara Hoke)

Chalice Lighting and Covenant (Jack Hutchins)

Words of Welcome (Lara)

Opening Hymn #1009 “Meditation on Breathing” (congregation)

A Time for All Ages “Let’s Go for a Drive” by Mo Willem (Cindy and Vio Malley)

Opportunity for Generosity—Offering

Offertory “New Orleans Morning” by William Gillock (Molly)

Sermon “You Are Traffic” (Lara)

Closing Hymn #1028 “The Fire of Commitment” (congregation and members of The Church Choir)

Closing Words (Lara)

Postlude “Tijuana Taxi” by Ervan “Bud” Coleman (Lara)

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

