



Community Matters

First Church Unitarian, Littleton

March 7, 2021

Join us Sunday, March 7 at 10:00 for “Whose Am I?”

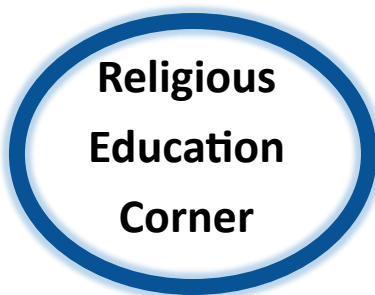
I look forward to seeing you again this Sunday! This Sunday we begin the Soul Matters theme of commitment with “Whose Am I?” **We will use YouTube Live for our service.** Simply go to <http://youtube.com/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton/live> and the live video will come up! If you have trouble with that, 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 9:56 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 to get 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



March theme: Commitment

Unitarian Universalists have a commitment to asking questions and being curious. We encourage people to wonder about everything. It is OK to be a questioner and a doubter. Never lose your commitment to being curious!

March RE dates to remember

Zoom gatherings:

March 7, 8:50-9:40

We will explore our UU commitment to curiosity by learning the importance of asking questions. We will enjoy a story and two "curiosity" games.

March 21

On Monday, March 8 we celebrate International Women's Day.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity (equality).

International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- raise awareness about women's equality
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for female-focused charities

The RE Committee,

Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

“If you had started doing anything two weeks ago, by today you would have been two weeks better at it.”

— John Mayer

FCU's Annual Stewardship Event a big hit giving us lots to smile about!

On an afternoon of cold and wet weather, over 100 meals of tasty soups, fresh breads, and amazing cookies were prepared for our members to enjoy while we attended our first ever virtual Stewardship event. So many wonderful things to say about this event but we thought you'd like to see for yourself! If you were unable to attend or if you just want a reason to laugh and cherish our amazing community again, Rev. Lara has created a "private" link for you to "re live" this wonderful event.

Here's the link: [REDACTED - email minster@fculittle.org for private link]

We are truly grateful for the many "Silver Linings" we celebrated at our Stewardship event. We are even more grateful for all the time, talent, and treasure that has sustained this church community each and every year. We are truly passionate and giving stewards of this amazing congregation.

With deep appreciation,
Martha, Jen, Lynda, Laura, Karen, and Emily

Share-the-Plate - March 21, 2021

Our March Share-the-Plate recipient is REACH Beyond Domestic Violence. REACH is a non-profit organization providing safety and support to survivors of abuse while engaging communities to promote healthy relationships and prevent domestic violence. Information is available at reachma.org.

To donate, please click here:

<https://reachma.salsalabs.org/donatetoreach/index.html>

Physical checks made out to "REACH" can be sent to:

REACH
PO Box 540024
Waltham, MA 02454

Thank you!!

Share The Plate Nominees Needed

The Deacons are looking for Share-The-Plate nominees for the remainder of this church year and next. The requirements for each nominee are as follows:

1. The organization must be a registered 501c3.
2. Someone must be available to speak to the congregation about the cause during a Sunday Service. (During virtual services a prerecorded video is great.)
3. The organization should have a physical address for congregants to send checks as well as a website where donations can be made directly. (The website would not be necessary when we are back to in-person services.)
4. The organization should represent the values of FCU and our members.

If you have submitted in the past, your organization fits the above criteria, and was not chosen, please feel free to renominate. We look forward to seeing your nominees.

Thank you!

Your Deacons- Andy Leyenaar, Cindy Malley, and Bill Duston

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.

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

From the Racial Justice Action Committee (RJAC)

Thoughts

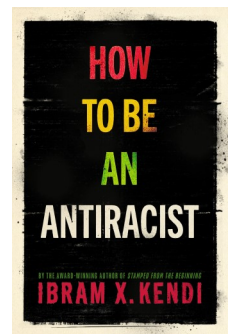
We nod in agreement with the phrase “Racism hurts us all”, but how seriously do we regard it? How deeply does it affect us? One example that wormed its way into my being, struck my heart, and became part of my soul is from 1959 with ramifications to today. Montgomery, Alabama had built a beautiful park and large public pool for all WHITES to enjoy. When civil rights laws were enacted, the pool was forced to be open to all. But the town leaders decided to drain the pool rather than allow blacks to swim. As a kid who spent many summer days in my own municipal pool I felt the outrage of all those kids and parents! And this happened all over the country, not just the south.

This tangible example of the phrase “Racism Hurts us All” is only the first in Heather McGhee’s TED talk, https://www.ted.com/talks/heather_c_mcghee_racism_has_a_cost_for_everyone?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread and the beginning of her study presented in her book, “The Sum of Us”. She goes on to explore how our “zero-sum” thinking is detrimental to our infrastructure, our unions, our schools, our politics, our environment - our country.

Submitted by Carolyn McCreary

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 Carolyn McCreary at clmccreary@icloud.com



Kick off for UU Mass Action North Metrowest Regional Team — March 11, 7 PM

UU Mass Action, our statewide UU advocacy network, is creating Regional Teams. Each team will determine it’s own priorities and focus—suggestions so far include supporting congregational justice work, taking justice work to the next level, taking action together, building relationships/partnerships, collaborating, sharing resources.

FCU and some 14 other congregations will form the North Metrowest Regional Team.

Please join the zoom call to share your thoughts and learn more—even if you don’t anticipate joining your ideas are welcome!

For additional info please contact Cindy Heiland cgheiland@mac.com.

Neighborhood Supper is back (sort of)!

We are continuing to prepare frozen meals for pick up, probably for the next six months at least, until it is safe for us to fill up the kitchen and dining room again. Until then, we will continue to provide nutritious meals for any one who comes. Last month we prepared 91 meals!

Pick up hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00-2:00, during office hours and from 4:00-5:30 on Tuesday afternoons at the Congregational Church of Littleton.

Donations to Neighborhood Supper can be sent to PO Box 112, Littleton MA 01460. Neighborhood Supper is a 501(c)3.



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

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

Sunday, March 7, 2021
First Church Unitarian, Littleton
Whose Am I?

ORDER OF SERVICE

(Gathering Video, “The Wind Cries Mary” by Jimi Hendrix, performed by Molly Lozeau, starts 9:56 a.m.)

Community Matters (Martha Childs, Standing Committee)

Prelude Prelude “Come, Come Whoever You Are” by Music by Lynn Adair Ungar, Words by Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi (The Church Choir)

Call to Worship (Rev. Lara Hoke)

Chalice Lighting and Covenant (Riley Hammer)

Words of Welcome (Lara)

Opening Hymn #15 “The Lone, Wild Bird” by Henry Richard McFadyen

A Time for All Ages “The Three Questions” by Jon Muth, based on a story by Leo Tolstoy (Larry Lickteig)

Opportunity for Generosity—Receiving Our Offering (Lara)

Offertory “Ashokan Farewell” by Jay Ungar (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

Reading words of Victoria Safford (Rochelle Chambless)

Musical Interlude “Compass Point” by Lowen and Navarro (The Firehouse Band)

Homily “Whose Am I?” (Lara)

Closing Hymn # 1021 “Lean On Me” by Bill Withers

Closing Words (Lara)

Postlude “Bright Orange” by Robert Starer (Molly)

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

