



*Community Matters*

**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**

**April 18, 2021**

**Join us on Sunday, April 18 at 10:00 for “Earth Day Alleluia”**

I look forward to seeing you again for Earth Day Sunday! We will continue with the Soul Matters theme of becoming. **Once again 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 9:58 a.m. or so when the gathering video starts.

This is also **Share-the-Plate Sunday**. Our offering will go to the **Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association**. Did you know that Lowell (the city closest to Littleton) has the second-largest Cambodian population in the USA? This share-the-plate offering is timely for two reasons. The happy reason is that it is the Cambodian (Khmer) New Year! But the other reason this share-the-plate offering is timely is that there has been a recent spate of anti-Asian violence. Our deacons have selected a local organization that is doing incredible work for the local Cambodian community, and many others who are in need of assistance and services. To donate online, go to: <http://www.cmaalowell.org/wp/donate/>

or send a check made out to “CMAA” to: CMAA; 465 School Street, Lowell, MA 01851

**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 if you need the 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**

**April theme: Becoming**

**April dates to remember:**

In person RE gathering: Friday, April 23 3:00-4:30 pm in the church yard! (rain date April 20)

Becoming People of the Earth

- *Our Purple Promise inspires us to value our home, the Earth that we share with all living things. We can honor our connection to the Earth by becoming a protector of it!*
- We will celebrate being together as we explore becoming People of the Earth.

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. This year is the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary. By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, we can make our world a happier, healthier place to live.

The RE Committee,

Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

—Jane Goodall

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

## Share-the-Plate - April 18, 2021

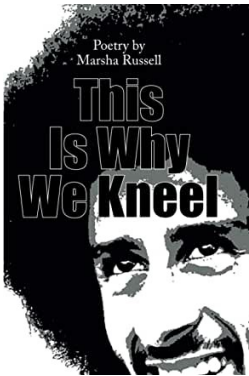
Our April Share-the-Plate recipient is the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell (CMAA) a 501(c)3 non-profit. Lowell (the city closest to Littleton) is home to the second largest Cambodian refugee population in the entire United States, second only to Long Beach, CA (and Lowell's Cambodian population makes up a much larger percentage of Lowell's overall population than Long Beach's Cambodian population). Most of Lowell's Cambodian residents are refugees who were resettled in Lowell during the 1980s after the horrors of the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot. The CMAA's mission is to improve the quality of life for Cambodian Americans and other minorities and economically disadvantaged persons in Lowell through educational, cultural, economic and social programs. Their website: <https://www.cmaalowell.org/wp/>

To donate on the 18th, prior to or after: Send a check payable to CMAA to CMAA 465 School Street Lowell, MA 01851 or [click here to donate online](#).

## Donations requested for FCU's 51st Annual "Dishin' Up Some Fun" Auction

Due to the fact that we are all very busy people we are extending the donation date deadline to **Wednesday, April 21st**. We are receiving some fabulous donations and look forward to receiving your donation if you are still pondering what to donate. If you need ideas for your donation contact the Talent Auction Team at [ta@fculittle.org](mailto:ta@fculittle.org). If you'd like to offer what you offered last year, just put "same as last year" in the description section of the donation form and add new date(s) if it's an event: <https://www.fculittle.org/talent-auction-donation-form/>. If you can supply a photo for your donation, please send it to [ta@fculittle.org](mailto:ta@fculittle.org). Thanks for your generosity! Submitted by Rochelle Chambless, the virtual catalog

## From the Racial Justice Action Committee (RJAC)



### **This Is Why We Kneel** — Poetry by Marsha Russell

Before Covid Marsha was a regular at the RJAC Film and Discussion Series. In 2008 she "began writing poems documenting each abusive case of a black man or woman being killed or poorly treated in the extreme", according to the Wilderness House Press. This book, published in August 2020, is the fruit of her labors and ends with the murder of George Floyd. It's a sobering read. The number of events she documents in this slim volume is in itself an indictment of white supremacy culture. **This Is Why We Kneel** is available at the Reuben Hoar Library in Littleton and on Amazon.

Cindy Heiland for RJAC

## Embracing Racial Justice

Please join the FCU Racial Justice Action Committee on Zoom Saturday night April April 17th, at 7 pm. We will watch together an important video on Why we must confront the painful parts of US history. I look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts about this important and powerful topic.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

## Vigil for Racial Justice Sunday 4/25 2PM Littleton Common

The Greater Littleton Interfaith Council is sponsoring a Vigil for Racial Justice on Sunday, April 25, 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).

## SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendar with these two upcoming community events:

**FCU BUDGET REVIEW: Sunday, May 2 at 11:30 am**

**FCU ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, May 16 at 11:30 am.**

We hope you can join us via zoom for these important meetings!

The Standing Committee

## The FCU Arts Playshop

The FCU Arts Playshop will be Zooming on Saturday, May 8 from 11am-1pm. If you would like to join us, please contact Niela by April 20. (nielam@comcast.net). She will send out the information about the playshop a few weeks in advance to allow for adequate prep time.

## Invitation from First Parish Chelmsford

The Welcoming Congregation Committee of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Chelmsford invites you to join us for a podcast "book" club! This year's topic is: \*All About Asexuality\*. (The A in the acronym LGBTQIA+)

Follow the link below to reach the list of podcasts to listen to. We'll meet on Zoom, Saturday April 17 at 6:30PM to discuss and share our thoughts.

<https://ransdella.wixsite.com/wccbookclub>

The Zoom link information for the meeting is:

[REDACTED - email [welcoming@uuchelmsford.org](mailto:welcoming@uuchelmsford.org) for Zoom info]

If you have any questions, please email [welcoming@uuchelmsford.org](mailto:welcoming@uuchelmsford.org).

## Next Mental Health Support Group Meeting on April 18 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 Sunday, April 18. 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.

Topic: FCU MHSG 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 [pjsardella56@gmail.com](mailto:pjsardella56@gmail.com) 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.**

**Sunday, April 18, 2021**  
**First Church Unitarian, Littleton**  
*Earth Day Alleluia*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

*(Gathering Video, “Piano Piece No. 2, Call and Response” by Robert Mawuena Kwami performed by Molly Lozeau, starts 9:58 a.m.)*

**Community Matters** (Karen Tucker-Barisano, Standing Committee)

**Prelude** “Where Do The Children Play” by Cat Stevens (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

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

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

**Words of Welcome** (Lara)

**Opening Hymn #309** “Earth is our Homeland” (congregation)

**A Time for All Ages** “Earth Mother” by Ellen Jackson (Susan Palmer)

**Opportunity for Generosity—Share-the-Plate: Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association** (Sovanna Pou, Executive Director and Thavy Hout, Development Associate)

Donate online at <http://www.cmaalowell.org/wp/donate/>  
or send a check made out to “CMAA” to our address:  
CMAA; 465 School Street, Lowell, MA 01851

**Offertory** “Spring Song” by Felix Mendelssohn (Molly)

**Homily** “Earth Day Alleluia” (Lara)

**Closing Hymn #1050** “Jazz Alleluia” (The Church Choir)

**Closing Words** (Lara)

**Postlude** “We Are the World” by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie (Molly)

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

