



Community Matters

First Church Unitarian, Littleton

April 25, 2021

Join us Sunday, April 25 at 10:00 for “Punishment and Grace”

This week our very own FCU member Kathryn Pfaltzgraff (M.Div., ordained Church of the Brethren minister) will preach for us for the first time! Back in March, (Rev.) Jackie Clement told us part of King David's story in an excellent sermon (“Hallelujah: Going Biblical”) about broken covenants and the abuse of power. In the sermon “Punishment and Grace”, (Rev.) Kathryn will pick up the story where Jackie left off.

Kathryn’s description: King David was the visible, human king the Israelites begged for. As you may remember, David was all too human. Yet according to Hebrew history, God promised King David he would never fail to have a successor sitting on Israel's throne as long as his descendants guarded their behavior and faithfully obeyed God as David had done. What?!! Didn't anyone notice that King David committed adultery and murder?

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.

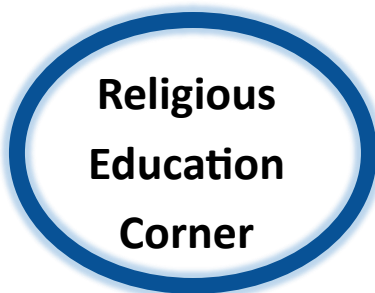
There will again be a (Zoom) Joys and Concerns and Virtual Coffee Hour after the service and that link information will also be included in the Sunday morning listserve email. Barring something unforeseen, the Joys and Concerns link will be the same each week:

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[REDACTED -- email minister@fculittle.org for Zoom information]

You can also use the Meeting ID and Password if you try to “Join Meeting” in Zoom.

With love and hope,
Rev. Lara



April theme: Becoming

May theme: Story

SAVE THE DATE for the May In Person RE Gatherings:

- Friday, May 7th from 3:00-4:30 pm
- Friday, May 21st from 3:00-4:30 pm

The RE kids will meet in the church yard to explore the May Soul Matters theme of Story!

Arbor Day is celebrated in April on the last Friday; this year it's April 20. The day was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraskan journalist who later became the U.S. Agriculture Secretary under President Grover Cleveland. Morton was an enthusiastic promoter of tree planting, had long championed the idea of a day dedicated to planting trees.

The RE Committee,

Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

“I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees for the trees have no tongues.”

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

~Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

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

Upcoming May Budget Review and Annual Meeting:

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

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

Go to the warranted meeting link on our FCU website at:

<https://www.fculittle.org/warranted-meeting/>

Access the Budget Review and Annual Meeting zoom link on the warranted meeting page. Please review all important documents before these meetings including the annual budget, warrant and voting list. Contact Lori Grant at lorigrant5@hotmail.com with any voting list corrections.

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

Mark your calendar!

The Standing Committee

Upcoming Bylaws Change Review Meeting

During the May Warranted meeting, the Member Reach Committee will be proposing changes to the Membership section of the bylaws.

To ensure ample time as a community to discuss these changes and the related impact, the Member Reach and Standing Committees invite you to a **Bylaws Change Review Meeting on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00pm.**

The meeting will start with a review of the proposed changes and the impetus behind them, followed by an open discussion and question/answer session.

The meeting will be via Zoom. Please see the related listserv email for detailed changes and meeting details/link. Contact the Member Reach committee at membership@fculittle.org if you did not receive the email.

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).

Raffle Baskets for Our "Dishing Up Some Fun" Auction

We're trying something new this year in our online auction—Raffle Baskets! Here's how the online version of raffle baskets will work: Each raffle basket will have its own item number and description. Each raffle basket item will have a "Buy It Now" price for individual tickets at \$1 per ticket. **You purchase the tickets for the raffle basket by clicking on the "buy it now" button for \$1 per ticket.** You can purchase as many tickets for each raffle basket as you want. When you purchase your tickets, your name will be put on a spinning wheel for that particular raffle basket. So if you purchase three individual tickets for \$1 each, your name will be on the spinning wheel three times. **The more tickets you buy for each raffle basket, the more chances you have to win that basket.**

The Raffle Baskets will be raffled, or spun for, on Saturday evening, May 1st during our "Dishing Up Some Fun" Celebration, starting at 7pm. You must purchase your raffle tickets no later than noon on Saturday, May 1st so that I have time to put your name on the spinning wheel for each raffle basket for which you bought tickets, before the Celebration.

If you have questions about raffle baskets, please contact me at 978-881-8671 or rochellecham@gmail.com

UUA General Assembly Delegates Needed!

This year the UUA is planning a virtual 2021 General Assembly from June 23-27, 2021. We hope that members and friends will attend this event—from the comfort of your living room! Follow this link for more information: <https://www.uua.org/ga>

From the Racial Justice Action Committee (RJAC)

I found this to be important to understand the dynamics of post civil war economics

“Poor Whites Have Been Written out of History for a Very Political Reason” An Interview with Keri Leigh Merritt. From the antebellum period to today, Southern white elites are terrified of poor whites and black workers joining hands — because they know it's an existential threat to their power.

<https://jacobinmag.com/2019/08/poor-whites-have-been-written-out-of-history-for-a-very-political-reason>

Submitted by Lorinda Morimoto

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.

The Church Choir Members Past and Present Social

You are invited to a social gathering via Zoom on Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 pm. Bring drinks and snacks for yourself a-la potluck style, and plan for an hour of socializing and listening to music and re-connecting a bit! This is not a rehearsal but purely a social evening. We hope that even if you have taken a break from remote rehearsals that you are able to attend! Join at the link: [REDACTED -- email music@fculittle.org for Zoom information]

Attention Campers

Our opportunity to reserve a campsite at Lake Dennison Recreation Area is fast approaching. As in past years, the annual FCU camping trip will be centered on the North side of the campground the weekend before Labor Day. This year, that means starting August 27, you can enjoy campfires, swimming, kayaking, biking, hiking, and especially hanging out with FCU friends in a beautiful outdoor setting. We usually share food as well as conversation. You can make a reservation 4/27 on line at reserveamerica.com. For more information please call Pam or Joel.

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

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

Sunday, April 25, 2021
First Church Unitarian, Littleton
Punishment and Grace

ORDER OF SERVICE

Gathering Video (Ulfi III by Christian Onyeji, performed by Molly Lozeau, starts around 9:57 a.m.)

Community Matters (Bill Duston, Deacon)

Prelude “Amazing Grace/Pachelbel's Canon”, Arr. Jean Anne Shafferman (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

Call to Worship (Rev. Kathryn Pfaltzgraff, Church of the Brethren)

Chalice Lighting and Covenant (Eliza Hammer)

Words of Welcome (Rev. Lara Hoke)

Opening Hymn #205 “Amazing Grace” (Congregation)

Time for All Ages “The First Strawberries”, a Cherokee Story retold by Joseph Bruchac with illustrations by Anna Vojtech (Melissa Barger Baern)

Opportunity for Generosity—Offering (Lara)

Offertory “Offertoire” by Cesar Franck (Molly on FCU organ)

Reading 2 Samuel 11:27b-12:7a (Kathryn)

Sermon “Punishment & Grace” (Kathryn)

Closing Hymn #1053 “How Could Any-one” (members of The Church Choir and The Artemis Singers)

Closing Words (Kathryn)

Postlude “Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen (Molly)

Joys & Concerns, announcements and fellowship will follow on Zoom.

