



Join us on Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 for “The Tomb Is Half Full”

I look forward to seeing you on Easter Sunday! This Sunday we begin the Soul Matters theme of becoming. **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

April dates to remember:

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

- Finding Your True Self: Who Are You Becoming?

◇ Who are we meant to become? What unique gifts can we share with the world? That is for us to find out for our whole lives. Growing into what is special and unique about ourselves isn't always easy. Sometimes other people like our friends or family or even people we don't know pressure us to become

something we're not. So our UU faith guides us to be a people of Becoming. Our UU faith tells us, “You can become what YOU want to be. You can become your true and unique self!”

- ◇ We will talk about how we are always becoming and the many gifts that we are born with and we will play a game.

- In person RE gathering: Friday, April 23 2:30-4:30 pm in the church yard!

This Sunday the Christian holiday of Easter is celebrated.

Easter is the holiest day of the year for Christians. It celebrates their belief in the resurrection, or the rising from the dead, of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the founder of the religion of Christianity. Easter is always observed on a Sunday in the spring, but its date varies. It can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

The name Easter may come from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess. In ancient times, an annual spring festival was held in her honor.

The week before Easter Sunday is known as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the events they believe took place at the time of Jesus' death. Palm Sunday recalls the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem shortly before his death. Holy Thursday marks the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, or followers. Good Friday remembers the crucifixion, when Jesus was killed by being nailed to a cross. Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected on the third day after his death. Easter is therefore a celebration of new life.

On Easter, Christians attend special church services. A number of popular folk customs are also associated with Easter. These have to do with rabbits and colored eggs, which are ancient symbols of new life. In some countries children color eggs and then the eggs are hidden for them to find. According to tradition the Easter Bunny also leaves eggs and candy for children on Easter morning. - *from Britannica Kids*

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

"Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life."

~Janine di Giovanni

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

The 51st FCU Annual Talent Auction is going live on Sunday, April 25th at 1pm.

This year's theme is "Dishin' Up Some Fun!"

The donation period is now through April 18th

<https://www.fculittle.org/talent-auction-donation-form/>

The auction goes "live" Sunday, April 25th at 1pm following church and closes on Sunday, May 2nd at 5pm

Zoom celebration and basket raffle drawings on Saturday, May 1st at 7pm.

Already receiving some wonderful donations!

If you have any questions about the auction, please send us an email at TA@fculittle.org

Your Talent Auction Committee members,
Rochelle, Jackie, Sara C., Deb, Jen, Cheryl L., Eric, and Laura

Need a Ride?

The Lay Pastoral ministers are launching a new program that will provide a service to our members who need transportation to the doctor, food shopping, or other errands. Lynn Cina has volunteered to coordinate this effort. Our goal is to have a list of persons who are willing to help in addition to those who need help. We are starting this program in order to hopefully add a service that the lay pastoral ministers do not provide. You may reach Lynn Cina at 603-203-1737.

Carole Tillis for the Lay Pastoral Ministers

Dollars and Sense at FCU

Pledges: As of March 31, we have received \$144,828.85 toward pledges of \$179,754.00. This represents 80.5% of our pledges for FY21! This is awesome!! Last year at this time we had collected 73%.

Please contact Prisl Dumka at assistreas@fculittle.org if you'd like to know what you pledged for FY21 or where you stand on that pledge or even if you'd like to make a pledge (it's never too late).

FY22 pledges are still coming in. The FY22 pledge amount at this time is \$167,525. If you've sent in your pledge, thank you! If you haven't, there is still time. If you are unable find your pledge card, an email to me would be fine.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to our beloved community!!

Hugs to all!!

Virtual Annual Interfaith Gathering for Peace

Sunday, April 11, 2021

3:45 p.m. – Check-in & Greetings

4:00 p.m. – Panel & Celebration

“Migration & Metamorphosis: Sharing Stories of Change & Connection”

a celebration with

Stories ~ Sharing ~ Scriptures ~ Song

and new this year –

Demonstration of Cooking a Cambodian Dish as a prelude to Cambodian New Year

Sponsored by Greater Lowell Interfaith Leadership Alliance (GLILA)

You must register (RSVP) here to get the Zoom link: <https://uml.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcuceqvzIqGNJ9t4fpOXb9ll2kfuaiFK9T>

Caring for Our Aging Parents (COAP)

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89428845165?pwd=emtZYlo4NjYzRHBCa0Z4Uzdll0JrQT09>

Meeting ID: 894 2884 5165

Passcode: 615805

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

THE 13TH ANNUAL FOLK COFFEEHOUSE

THE 13TH ANNUAL FOLK COFFEEHOUSE, hosted by our good friends The Saturdays at United Congregational Church Boxboro, is still going strong even though they've gone virtual this year! I don't know how they created a virtual Coffeehouse but I do know that Hugh Vartanian, Mike Pilman and Patti Sardella were involved, so you know it will be great! ☺ The Coffeehouse streams right to your computer on Saturday April 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm. So if you're a (virtual) music lover, take a comfortable seat, and on Saturday night at 7:00, watch and listen to some beautiful music from talented local artists. We had a great showing of FCUers last year and a good time was had by all! The Coffeehouse will be on YouTube. I'll send the link and relevant information via list serve. Please contact Patti Sardella with any questions. Enjoy the show!

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](#).

Last Chance to Attend Green Sanctuary Task Force Zoom Cottage Meeting on Heating System Replacement Recommendation is Sunday, April 11 at 11:30AM. Please Attend!

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! ***This will be the most substantial, significant investment you will be asked to make for our church building and community.*** The last Cottage Meeting to discuss our decision and the financial implications of that decision is Sunday, April 11 at 11:30AM. During the May Warranted Meeting we'll be proposing a budget item to pay for the Engineering Design. This Cottage Meeting is designed to inform you to vote on that budget request, so please plan on attending this meeting if you haven't already attended a previous Cottage Meeting.

Topic: GSTF Cottage Meeting

[REDACTED]

email minister@fculittle.org for Zoom information



The Mental Health Support group will be meeting on Sunday April 4 at 6:00PM.

The Mental Health Support Group is designed for people who live with a mental health condition. Our objective is to create a safe, confidential space for people to talk about, among other things, what living with a chronic mental health condition is like. Sharing personal stories with others who have 'been there' is a rare but wonderfully life-affirming experience! Come for the support you need to thrive in spite of your illness. If you have questions before the meeting, please don't hesitate to contact Patti Sardella at pjsardella56@gmail.com or (978) 621-1065. Email or text is best, but call if that's more comfortable for you!

Topic: FCU MHSG Zoom Meeting

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

[REDACTED]

email pjsardella56@gmail.com for Zoom information

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

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

I'm reading a fabulous and important book and would like to discuss it with others. I'm willing to organize and facilitate such a discussion on Zoom. Please email me if you are interested.

<https://newsociety.com/books/f/a-finer-future>

A Finer Future

Creating an Economy in Service to Life

by L. Hunter Lovins, Stewart Wallis, Anders Wijkman and John Fullerton

Charting the course to a regenerative economy is the most important work facing humanity and A Finer Future provides the essential blueprint for business leaders, entrepreneurs, environmentalists, politicians, policymakers, and others working to create a world that works for people and the planet.

Cerridwen

CerridwenCerridwen@comcast.net

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).

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.

Sunday, April 4, 2021
First Church Unitarian, Littleton
Easter Sunday

ORDER OF SERVICE

(Gathering Video, “Easter Parade” by Irving Berlin, performed by Molly Lozeau, starts 9:56 a.m.)

Community Matters (Jen Jaksa, Standing Committee)

Prelude “Song of the Lark” by Peter Tchaikovsky (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

Call to Worship words of Jan Richardson (Rev. Lara Hoke)

Chalice Lighting and Covenant (Fergus Abreu)

Words of Welcome (Lara)

Opening Hymn #269 “Lo, the Day of Days Is Here” (congregation)

A Time for All Ages “Little Tree” by Loren Long (Susan Palmer)

Opportunity for Generosity—Offering (Lara)

Offertory “It Is Well With My Soul” by HG Spafford and PP Bliss (Molly)

Reading Gospel of Mark 16:1-8 (Lara)

Musical Offering “Ave, Generosa” by Hildegard von Binger (The Church Choir)

Sermon “The Tomb Is Half Full” (Lara)

Closing Hymn #268 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (congregation)

Closing Words (Lara)

Postlude “Hallelujah Chorus” by GF Handel (“pick up” choir)

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

