



Join us Sunday, May 16 at 10:00 for “All We Kindred Pilgrim Souls?”

I look forward to seeing you again this Sunday for “All We Kindred Pilgrim Souls?” As we have talked about over the years, our congregation is (strange as it may seem) descended from the Puritans. You might recall that the Pilgrims (or “Separatists”) who landed in Plymouth in 1620 are a particular subset of the Puritans. For our Auction Sermon, our own church historian, Joyce Williams, has asked me some interesting questions. Namely, How did the Separatists (or Pilgrims) of Plymouth Colony and the Puritans of Boston get along? Did they merge? I have been diving in and have some interesting information to share, and some thoughts about what we might learn from it all.

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 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. (If you get there very early, you might need to refresh your browser.)

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]

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

Peace,
Rev. Lara

**Religious
Education
Corner**

May theme: Story

May In Person RE Gatherings:

- Friday, May 21 @ 3:00

We will explore our Violet Promise--valuing our Earth home that we share with all living things--as we hike up Wilderness Road in the Prouty Woods. We will meet in the church yard. Be sure to wear sneakers/hiking shoes and feel free to bring a small snack and water in your own backpack/bag. We will enjoy the view and a snack when we get to the top. Fingers crossed for a sunny day. Let us know if you are planning to come.

- Upcoming final RE Gathering of the year--June 11

Here's a fun idea for this weekend:

Have you ever taken a StoryWalk? A StoryWalk is a book that you read outdoors while you take a walk—just like it sounds!

Girls from Girl Scout Troop 66292 have been working hard on their silver award project: Amphibians and Vernal Pools.

They are doing a self-guided StoryWalk at Hartwell Preserve in Littleton with the book Big Night for Salamanders on Saturday 5/15 and Sunday 5/16. The girls will be there to talk about amphibians and vernal pools and answer any questions on Saturday 10-2 and Sunday 10-1. The story walk will be available until 4 o'clock on Sunday.

The RE Committee,

Susan, Debbie, Karen, Tatum, and Emily

"Never do anything by halves if you want to get away with it. Be outrageous. Go the whole hog."

~from Matilda, by Roald Dahl

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

FCU Annual Meeting this Sunday May 16 at 11:30 am.

Please plan to attend this important meeting after church.

To connect to the meeting:

Go to the Spring Warranted Meeting Info link on our FCU website at:

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

You will access the Annual Meeting zoom link on this warranted meeting page.

Please review the Warrant, Annual Report, proposed Budget, October's meeting minutes, voting list and proposed heating system information before this meeting. Come prepared to vote on these issues!

We hope you can join us via zoom for the Annual Meeting!

The Standing Committee

Virtual Joint Summer Service Sunday, August 1st, 2021 @ 10AM

Please join us on Sunday, August 1st, 2021 at 10AM for the 18th annual Joint Summer Service of neighboring Unitarian Universalist churches.

The service this year will be virtual and hosted by the Harvard church. Rev. Jill Cowie of Harvard will lead the service and Ted Johnson, Music Director of Harvard, will direct the pick-up choir in a pre-recorded choral introit and anthem. All singers are welcome. Details about participating in the virtual choir will be sent in June. The offering will be donated to the UUSC.

This year the participating churches include: Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Stow/Acton, Fitchburg, Marlborough/Hudson, Bolton, and Leominster.

The link for the virtual service will be sent the week before the August 1st service.

For questions, contact: Elinor Gentilman, egentilman@comcast.net Littleton, or
Rick Gentilman, rgentilman1@aol.com Stow/Acton

For the Joint Summer Service Planning Team

Vigil for Racial Justice * Sunday * 5/23 * 2PM * Littleton Common

The Greater Littleton Interfaith Council is sponsoring a Vigil for Racial Justice on Sunday, May 23 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).

From the Racial Justice Action Committee (RJAC)

"No one will see racism if we only stay silent. If we don't name racism, it won't stop being so violent....Nothing disrupts racism more than when we confess the racist ideas that we sometimes express." from Ibrahim Kendi's book: Antiracist Baby

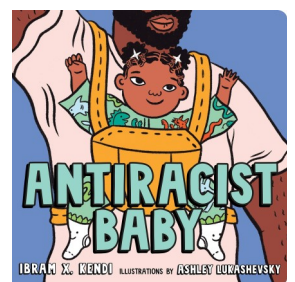
Submitted by Peter Cina

Embracing Racial Justice

Please join the FCU Racial Justice Action Committee on Zoom Saturday night May 15th, at 7pm. We will watch together an important video on "How we can make racism a solvable problem--and improve policing." I look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts about this important and powerful topic.

Join Zoom Meeting

[REDACTED]



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

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

Announcing the Fifth & Final Spiritual Physics Research Discussion Series next Friday, May 28 at 7:00 PM

The discussion is titled: "Aspiring to See and Understand".

Rev. Lara Hoke will kindly provide a spiritual frame for the evening. Doug Sweetser will present slides for a general audience for about forty minutes, followed by an open discussion. Even if you have missed one or all previous talks, please consider attending.

Zoom link: https://bit.ly/SPR_zoom
passcode: [REDACTED] email minister@fculittle.org
for passcode

site: https://bit.ly/SPR_site
slides: https://bit.ly/SPR_slides - updated - all 4 are
there videos: https://bit.ly/SPR_videos - updated - same
t-shirts: https://bit.ly/SPR_t-shirts



Next Mental Health Support Group Meeting on May 16 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, May 16 where we will be discussing the topic of Self Advocacy. This group is for people living with a mental illness and is open to members of the FCU community. Come get the support you need to thrive in spite of your illness. For more information contact Patti Sardella at 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 for Zoom info]

Transform your Trash to Clean Water in Honduras

Lynn Cina recycles your five-cent deposit beverage containers into donations toward clean water in Honduras. Bring your rinsed beer bottles and cans to church and place them in bins on the far right entrance to the Sunday School building. **THANKS in ADVANCE.**

Sunday, May 16, 2021
First Church Unitarian, Littleton
All We Kindred Pilgrim Souls?

ORDER OF SERVICE

(Gathering Video, “Grand Central Station” by Nancy Faber, performed by Elliott Murray, 11-year-old student of Carolyn McCreary. Starts around 9:58 a.m.)

Community Matters (Bill Duston, Deacon)

Warrant (Lori Grant, Clerk)

Prelude “Windham” by David Read *circa 1785* (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

Call to Worship (Rev. Lara Hoke)

Chalice Lighting and Covenant (Madelyn Hammer)

Words of Welcome (Lara)

Opening Hymn #281 “Oh God Our Help in Ages Past” (congregation)

A Time for All Ages “Voices in the Park” by Anthony Browne (Karen Tucker-Barisano)

RE Gathering Video (May 7, 2021)

Opportunity for Generosity—Offering (Lara)

Offertory “Oh, In the Morning” by Arlo Guthrie (Molly) *auction winner request by Chet Olson*

Sermon “All We Kindred Pilgrim Souls?” (Lara) *auction winner topic by Joyce Williams*

Closing Hymn #145 “As Tranquil Streams” (congregation)

Closing Words (Lara)

Postlude “Siyahamba” by Andries Van Tondor (Peter Ersland voice, Mike Pilman drums, Molly, percussion)

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

