



Community Matters

First Church Unitarian, Littleton

May 23, 2021

Join us Sunday, May 23 at 10:00 for “The Real Work”

Join us on Sunday as we consider “The Real Work” of the church. For all the dishes we wash, agendas we type and protest signs we paint, the real work of the church isn't done with our hands. So what is the real work of the church? What are we gathered together in service of? Our service will be led by our own (Rev.) Jackie Clement, ably assisted by Laura Semple!

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 9:56 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 listserv email. Barring something unforeseen, the Joys and Concerns link will be the same each week:

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

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

June theme: Play

Upcoming final RE Gathering of the year—Friday, June 11 at 3 pm.

We will have an end of year celebration after this unique year! Stay tuned for more information!

How does it feel to be 60?

On May 15, 1961 Unitarian Universalism was formed when two religions, Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association, merged.

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

“A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.”

-from The Twits, by Roald Dahl

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

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)

At our latest Racial Justice Action Committee Meeting, we had a discussion of Reparations, a way of making amends for the wrongs done to African Americans by federal and state governments. We support US House of Representatives Bill, H.R. 40, the creation of a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans. "The commission shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

The commission shall identify (1) the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery, (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants, and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African Americans and society."

This bill has been introduced by Representatives John Conyers and Shelia Jackson Lee to every Congress since 1989. Last month the House Judiciary Committee in a 25-17 vote ordered full house discussion of H.R. 40.

To learn more read

1. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee: <https://www.aclu.org/news/racial-justice/h-r-40-is-not-a-symbolic-act-its-a-path-to-restorative-justice/>
2. The Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehisi Coates in the June 2014 Atlantic Magazine, <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
3. "From Here to Equality" by William A. Darity, Jr. May 2020

More to come from RJAC.

Submitted by Carolyn McCreary

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



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

Deadline is 10 a.m. Friday mornings.

Sunday, May 23, 2021
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ORDER OF SERVICE

(Gathering Video, “They Can’t Take That Away from Me”, Music by George Gershwin, performed by Molly Lozeau, starts around 9:56 a.m.)

Community Matters (Martha Childs)

Prelude *Earth Song* by Frank Ticheli (The Halalisa Singers)

Call to Worship *A Song for the Unsung* by Steve Crump (Laura Semple and Rev. Jackie Clement, guest speaker)

Words of Welcome (Jackie)

Chalice Lighting and Covenant (Riley Hammer)

Opening Hymn #357 “Bright Morning Stars Are Rising”

A Time for All Ages *Henry Works* by D.B. Johnson (Laura)

Opportunity for Generosity—Receiving Our Offering (Jackie)

Offertory “Can’t Buy Me Love” by John Lennon and Paul McCartney (Molly Lozeau, Music Director)

Reading *The Church That Doesn't Matter*, Kelly Asprooth-Jackson (Laura)

Sermon “The Real Work” (Jackie)

Closing Hymn #311 “Let It Be a Dance”

Closing Words (Jackie)

Postlude “Minuet in C Major” by W. A. Mozart (Molly)

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

