

# Community Matters

April 23,  
2023



Join us Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 for “Props to the Planet”!

Please join us on Sunday for “Props to the Planet”, a multigenerational Earth Day Sunday! Director of Religious Education Thea Shapiro and I will co-lead the service. Expect surprises and fun!

The service will be “multiplatform”, both in-person and live-streaming. We are grateful to our Video Production team for the important ministry of making our services available in real time online.

We will have some printed Orders of Service for those who want them. We also have a QR code available for you to scan (with your camera app) and see the OOS each week on your smart phone if you prefer. As last year, I will also email out the OOS in advance.

For those of you joining us virtually, there will be two ways this week to watch the live stream.

You can watch directly on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton/live>. You can also join us on Zoom and have more opportunity for community and interaction. You can find that link here: <https://www.fculittle.org/members-and-friends-zoom-link/>

Joy, grace, experimentation, learning, community, fun and more will be ours this Sunday.

With anticipation,

*Lara*

Rev. Lara

**Welcome to our FCU community**  
**Lunch-Learn & Linking!** **New to UU?**  
**Sunday, April 30, 11:15 am-1:30 pm** **Pathway to**  
**Alliance Room** **Membership**  
**Meeting!**

All folks who have connected with our community since March 2020 are warmly welcomed to find out about the inner workings of FCU, Unitarian Universalism, and the privileges of membership.

Join us in the Alliance Room on Sunday, April 30 following worship until 1:30 pm. Lunch and child care provided – as long as we know you're coming! RSVP to [susan.tordella@gmail.com](mailto:susan.tordella@gmail.com) or text her at 978-846-2811.

## Community Matters Deadline

Wednesdays @ Noon.

## Office Administrator's

## Office Hours (Bllu)

Wednesdays 10-2

Fridays 11-5

## Minister's Office Hours (Lara)

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday afternoon

or by appointment

## Thea's R.E. News: Happy Earth Day!

Thank you, Emily (Welch), for helping out in RE last week. We made recycled art and objects. This week Rev. Lara and I will be leading a Multigenerational Service for Earth Day. It will be a lot of fun and we hope that you and your families can join us. All children and youth will be in the sanctuary for the whole service. Next week we will pick up in RE class again.

I am looking for RE Assistant help for May 21, 28 and June 4. Please email me if you can help: [dre@fculittle.org](mailto:dre@fculittle.org) – Subject Line: May-June Help. Thanks!

In peace,  
*Thea*



Fergus with his recycled telescope!

# Talent Auction "It's All About the Vibe"!

Bidding on this year's wonderful **"It's All About the Vibe" Talent Auction** starts at **noon on April 23** and ends on **April 30 at 6pm**. Here's a sneak peak at what's available including a Dance Party for \$10, lots of kid's and adult's Name Tag Necklaces for a starting bid of \$3-5, a Maine Canoe Trek valued at \$1000, three different Dinner and Train Game events, a Yamaha guitar valued at \$400, three different Maine weekend getaways and so much more. Click on this link <https://auctria.events/FCULittleton> to see what other surprises are available to bid on this year!

## New this year!

All events will have a corresponding raffle option for you to win a seat at the event. You can bid as normal if you want to make sure to get your seats or if you're feeling lucky one seat will be put up for raffle. Buy a ticket and you might just be the winner of that lucky seat. We have several interesting baskets this year including a Local Merchants Gift Cards basket valued at \$125, an English Cream Tea basket and a Dozen Bottles of Beer basket. Be sure to buy your raffle tickets before and after the Service on Sunday, April 23 and 30th for the event you'd like to attend. We will be selling tickets for raffle items before and after church on the 23rd and 30th in the Vestry and drawing winners on the 30th during coffee hour. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

## How do you bid?

If you are already registered with Auctria you do not need to re- register. We do suggest you check to make sure your email and credit card information is correct. If you are new to First Church Unitarian and wish to participate, just send an email to [TA@fculittle.org](mailto:TA@fculittle.org) and the team will send you a link to register on the Auctria website.

Bid early and often and most of all have fun bidding!

Your Talent Auction Team,

Karen Tucker-Barisano, Laura Semple, Jackie Clement and Catalog Queen Rochelle Chambless



**EPISODE 4. CAPITALISM.** Nikole Hannah-Jones' family and current labor battles are the lens for 'Capitalism', which explores how slavery formed the bedrock of American capitalism and how this foundation of brutality continues to permeate our deeply unequal economic system.

## FCU Arts Playshop

**May 13**

**11am-1pm**

You and your interested friends are invited to join the Arts Playshop which meets once a month for an exploration of creative process on Zoom. We do all sorts of projects from guided exercises to free choice. The group is most often facilitated by Niela Miller

with others offering to guide particular projects from time to time. We do show-and-tell and focus on sharing our creative process more than any finished product or result. Come have fun with us! You will receive notice and link when you RSVP to Niela. [nielam@comcast.net](mailto:nielam@comcast.net)

## Budget Review Meeting May 7, 11:30 a.m.

It will be offered in person in the sanctuary and online.

## Annual Meeting May 21, 11:30 a.m.

It will be offered in person in the sanctuary and online.

More details will follow.

### Molly's Notes



The musical selections this Sunday, April 23rd, will celebrate the vibrant sounds of the Earth. The Prelude is a part of a longer suite written exactly three hundred years ago in 1723 by Italian violinist Antonio Vivaldi. His *Four Seasons* suite for a string chamber orchestra with a solo violinist presents music for each of the seasons - he even includes notes in the score for interpretation, like "bird song" and "the gentle sprinkle of rain." The Offertory comes from the pen of contemporary composer Philip Glass and is a song featured in the 1982 film *Koyaanisqatsi*, which explores how technology can throw nature and ecology off kilter; the title is a Hopi Indian word meaning "life out of balance." The Postlude by classical composer Felix Mendelssohn is a fun, carefree exploration of the hopefulness of spring. The Anthem, sung by the Church Choir today, offers a text to encourage you to move "forward like a river running free" and experience the beauty of nature.

### Hey Campers!

That day of reserving a site at Massasoit State Park is soon approaching.

Our annual FCU camping trip will be on the weekend starting August 25. The reservation system allows you to choose and reserve a site beginning 4 months in advance.



Go to <http://www.reserveamerica.com>

and enter Massasoit when prompted.

Pam and I will be looking in Loop 2 and hope to reserve starting the Thursday before. Julianna Miller can also help you figure all this out. - Joel

### Note from your Assistant Treasurer

**FY23 Pledges:** Please contact me at [assistreas@fculittle.org](mailto:assistreas@fculittle.org) if you'd like to know what you pledged for FY23 or where you stand on that pledge.

**FY24 Pledges:** FY24 pledges are coming in. If you've sent in your pledge, thank you! If you haven't, there is still time. If you are unable to find your pledge card, an email to me would be fine.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to our beloved community!!  
- Prisl Dumka, Assistant Treasurer



### Sabbatical Cottage Meeting via Zoom April 30th - SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, 4/30 @ 4pm**

FCU's Sabbatical Team isn't waiting until next year to get started on planning Rev. Lara's sabbatical in 2024 because that would be a really bad idea!

So, save the date to attend the Sabbatical Cottage meeting via Zoom on April 30th at 4pm. Learn about and ask all your questions about all things sabbatical, from simple things like when and how it starts and ends, to more detailed things about how FCU will finance it, how things currently done by Rev. Lara will be done in her absence, and how we can spiff up ourselves during her Sabbatical to give her the best welcome back ever as a congregation.

Watch this space for further information as the time draws nearer!

### Directory Updated!

The FCU Members and Friends Directory has been updated. [Click here](#) to see it! If you see a mistake or anything that needs updating, let us know - or let us know if you'd like to be added. Just email Bllu at [office@fculittle.org](mailto:office@fculittle.org).

# Environmental Action Group Webinar: Gardening with Native Plants

*Learn how to grow plants bees Love!*  
Tuesday 4/25 @7pm

FCU's Environmental Action Group (EAG) is excited to present this Zoom talk by Amy Meltzer, an active member of **Grow Native Massachusetts** and the **Mass Pollinator Network**. Amy will show how growing native plants and using ecological landscape practices

can simultaneously reverse biodiversity loss, increase resilience in our landscapes, and slow climate change – all while creating a beautiful garden! More about Amy: She is on both the Research Team and the **Natural Solutions Working Group** of Elders Climate Action. She has been researching and gardening with native plants for over ten years. [ZOOM LINK](#)

## A Happy Death!

We all die, yet death remains a taboo subject. As people of faith, we are invited to look at the span of human life and to celebrate its fullness. This includes death and the dying process. Talking about death doesn't need to be a sad or morose experience. We can laugh, be proactive and cheerily prepare for the eventuality of our own deaths.

On **May 31st at 2pm**, you are invited to a program co-sponsored by First Church Unitarian (FCU) and the Congregational Church of Littleton (CCOL) where we will talk about the dying process, how to share our expectations about our own deaths, plan our post-death services (funerals or memorial services) and even write drafts of our own obituaries. Most importantly, we will have FUN doing it.

Come with questions, partially formed plans if you have them and a sense of humor. Cake and ice cream will be served because no celebration is complete without them!

The program will be **held at CCOL (330 King Street, Littleton) and co-led by Rev. Lara Hoke and Rev. Jennifer Munroe-Nathans.**



## FCU - We need You and Your Stuff!

**Friday, June 10, noon to 5 pm and  
Saturday June 11, 8-9 am  
at The Historical Society**

Clear out your clutter and benefit a Ghanaian school. DROP OFF treasures: Friday, June 10, noon to 5 pm and Saturday June 11, 8-9 am.

To be held at the Historical Society, across from FCU. QUESTIONS? Volunteer to help us set up, sell and/or take down?

Contact [Susan.tordella@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.tordella@gmail.com) 978-846-2811

Peter and Lynn Cina

Bob Williams





## Nashobah Praying Indian Book Signing & Open House

Sunday April 23, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Littleton Historical Society, 4 Rogers Street, Littleton, MA

### *History of the Nashobah Praying Indians: Doings, Sufferings, Tragedy, and Triumph*

Please join Strong Bear Medicine and Quiet Storm of the Nashobah Praying Indians at the Littleton Historical Society building on Sunday April 23 for an open house celebration of the newly released book: *History of the Nashobah Praying Indians*. Meet and mingle with Strong Bear and Quiet Storm, and author, Littleton historian Daniel V. Boudillion. Have your books signed, partake of refreshments, and enjoy Native music performed by Strong Bear and Quiet Storm.

As many of you know (and as Rev. Lara preached about on October 9, 2022), the town of Littleton was originally created in 1654 as the Praying Indian Plantation of Nashobah. Told in its entirety for the first time, this is the story of the Nashobah Praying Village and the Nashobah Praying Indians, whose descendants are still honoring their heritage and with us today.

Books will be available that day as well as on amazon.com.



Strong Bear and Dan Boudillion



67th Annual Plant and Craft Fair

At First Parish on the  
Bedford Common

10 AM-3 PM

Rain or Shine!

Saturday May 20, 2023



Come Shop  
for **free**  
at Trinity



**FREE! INDOOR YARD SALE**

Saturday, May 20 (rain or shine)

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**TRINITY CHURCH, Congregational**  
14 Wattaquodock Hill Rd., Bolton, MA | 978-779-5517 | WWW.TRINITYBOLTON.ORG

**Democracy Festival**

Food Games Arts & Crafts Direct Action Groups

Music

Free Admission

Support Democracy, Learn and Have Fun!

Panel Discussion: Friday, May 19, 7:30pm  
Festival: Saturday, May 20, 11:00-2:00  
First Parish in Concord  
20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

# *Sabbatical*

— refresh | rest | refocus —

## **It's time to start planning for Rev. Lara's first FCU sabbatical!**

We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and let you know a bit about our work. In March we were charged by the Standing Committee to help with the planning for Rev. Lara's much deserved sabbatical from the end of January to mid-May, 2024. We know you will join with us in celebrating our minister and the fact that we can offer her this opportunity to grow, refresh and deepen her own spiritual life, as we will do the same.

So just what is a sabbatical? Sabbatical leave is a tradition for Unitarian Universalist clergy that offers an extended time for study, reflection, rest, and renewal—all ingredients for effective ministry. Usually taken after approximately five to seven years of service, sabbatical leave is part of the congregation's covenant agreement with Lara as our minister.

Just as importantly, the congregation will benefit as Lara returns refreshed, filled with new ideas and with rekindled energy. Further, it offers the staff and congregation the opportunity to undertake our own exploration, hear from different voices and engage our own spiritual journeys in a new way.

Perhaps more than anything, it is a way for us to show our deep appreciation of Rev. Lara's ministry by investing in her continued growth and our own.

As a task force of the Standing Committee, we do not own all the work of preparation for this time, but we hope we can be a conduit to the congregation keeping you apprised of plans.

Of course, Rev. Lara is planning how she will spend her sabbatical and we're sure she will share those plans as the time comes closer. The Standing Committee is making important decisions on budgeting and how ministerial duties will be covered in Lara's absence.

The deacons are deep in conversation about the ways we, as a congregation, can use this time to tend to our community spirit. Other church committees and, certainly, our wonderful staff will have roles in planning and leading us through the time. The role of the sabbatical team is to create the overarching plan that brings all these groups together to provide worship, pastoral care and administration and then to communicate that plan to the FCU community. And best of all, we will honor this special time and this wonderful ministry with celebrations at Lara's leave-taking and return!

Rev. Lara's sabbatical is nearly a full year off, but we know how quickly a year can go so we invite you to start thinking about how you want to be part of this exciting time. Do you have a service topic you've always wanted to explore? A class you've wanted to lead? Other skills you want to build in beloved community?

Details on opportunities and how you can engage this time will be shared as plans unfold.

We look forward to what we know will be an exciting time of exploration and growth!

-Debbie Eston, Mike Pilman, and Jackie Clement

Monica Pilman, liaison to the Executive Team



*The Halalisa Singers present*

# Concert *for the* Earth

*Featuring the "Missa Gaia" Earth Mass*

**With Soloist Jim Scott, Co-Composer and Stan Strickland, Saxophone**  
**Mary Cunningham, Artistic Director**

Plus works by  
Arnesen, Hogan,  
Saez and Walker

Bertram  
Lehmann,  
Fabio Pirozzolo,  
*Percussion*

Trevor Berens,  
*Pianist*

Rick McLaughlin,  
*Electric Bass*



We will be joined  
by "Mothers Out  
Front" members,  
a national  
movement of  
women raising  
their voices for  
climate justice.

Tickets and  
information:

[www.halalisa.org](http://www.halalisa.org)

\$25 General  
Admission



SATURDAY  
**APRIL 29**

8pm at First Unitarian Church of Worcester  
90 Main Street, Worcester, MA

SUNDAY  
**APRIL 30**

4pm at First Parish of Arlington  
630 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA

**HALALISA** world music ensemble  
SINGERS