

Community Matters

September 24, 2023

Featured Inside:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FALL FAIR VOLUNTEERS WANTED

GROUP BOOK: I TAKE MY COFFEE BLACK



Join us Sunday, September 24 at 10:00 for “Tikkun Olam: A UU Appreciation of Yom Kippur in Light of the Climate Crisis”

I hope to see you this Sunday for “Tikkun Olam: A Unitarian Universalist Appreciation of Yom Kippur in Light of the Climate Crisis”. The service will be “multiplatform”, both in-person and live-streaming. We will consider the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur with a lens of the climate crisis. 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](#). You can also join us on Zoom and have more opportunity for community and interaction. You can find that link [HERE](#).

Joy, grace, experimentation, learning, community and more will be ours this Sunday. I can't wait to see you!

In faith,

Lara

Rev. Lara

Family Friendly Dance Party September 30, 7-9:30PM

A family friendly dance party with our own Alan Bell as DJ! We'll dance in the downstairs dining room and have wine and seltzers to whet your whistle between dances, & desserts (including vegan and gluten free!) to keep your energy up.

Prizes will be awarded for games like "name that tune", dance competitions — even snow-ball dances! Date: Saturday, September 30 from 7 to 9:30pm. Pay at the door--\$10 cover charge per person or \$20 per family, children of all ages welcome!

This is a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to introduce them to FCU. Those of you who won this event in the talent auction will receive an email reminding you that you're already on the guest list and don't need to pay at the door.

To RSVP or for more information please email Rochelle Chambless at rochellecham@gmail.com, so we can get a head count and have plenty of drinks and snacks on hand for the party. Let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks, Rochelle



Recommendation from RJAC

As we near Banned Book Week (Oct 1st-7th), RJAC (Racial Justice Action Committee) invites you to read a book that has been banned in parts of the USA. In 2022 the American Library Association documented a record number of unique titles targeted for censorship. That year 2,571 were targeted, a 38% increase from the 1,858 censored in 2021. Of those titles, the vast majority were written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people of color. Here are just a few and



the reasons they were targeted. *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas has been banned for "promoting an anti-police message." *

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X

Kendi and Jason Reynolds, and *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker for "discussions of race and vulgar language." *

Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe, *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison, and *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M Johnson. All of these feature LGBTQIA+ content.

quotes from ACLU Massachusetts website *

Pollinators & Native Plants Program

Saturday 9/30 at 11am. Presented by the Women's Alliance.

Erin Jade, a volunteer with the Littleton Conservation Trust, will present a program on Pollinators and Native Plants in the Vestry. Come learn about the importance of protecting and providing habitat and food for pollinators. There will be time for questions and answers about what you can do in your own yards and communities to support these vital links in our food chain.

Light refreshments will be served after the presentation for those attending in person. For those who would like to attend virtually, please contact Rochelle Chambless rochellecham@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Thanks, Rochelle



ALSO of note... In the wake of celebrating our government's negotiating the release of political prisoners in Iran, have we overlooked our own political prisoner, Leonard Peltier, who has been in our own federal prison for 47 years for a crime, even the prosecutor admits he probably did not commit? Leonard wrote a book, Prison Writings, my life is a Sun Dance. Reading this may shed some light on your understanding.

-Submitted for RJAC by Lorinda Morimoto

Please Save the Date:
Sunday, October 22
FCU Warranted Meeting
11:30 AM
In the Sanctuary

Thea's R.E. News



Last week we shared about our summer and made our covenant.

This week we will be talking about forgiveness, as we will be acknowledging the Jewish Holiday of Yum Kippur.

I hope your child can join us. We are still in need of help in RE. Please email me if you can volunteer.

In Peace, *Thea.*

The open slots for the rest of 2023 are:

October

8 one more person for games (I'm off that day)
15 two people
22 two people
29 three people

November

5 one person
12 one person
19 two people
26 one more person for games (I'm off that day)

December

3 one person
10 one person

Music Notes



As we learn about traditions surrounding *Rosh Hashanah* this Sunday, I wanted the music of today to give you a sample of traditional and classical music. The **Prelude** today comes from a collection of songs written and arranged by Ellen Allard. This particular song, "*Tokea Hashofar*," is an upbeat song celebrating the Jewish New Year and different traditions that go along with this holiday; Ellen has taken the traditional melody sung in households and added harmonies to create a new arrangement of this song. The **Anthem** was written in 1995 for the Ithaca Children's Choir by New York native Allan Naplan. He has written several compositions featuring Hebrew and Yiddish languages, including "*Schlaf Mein Kind*" written in remembrance of the Holocaust. You'll also hear classical composers Max Bruch and Felix Mendelssohn, both prominent Jewish composers of their time. Bruch studied music and lived in Bonn, Germany

(birthplace of Beethoven) in the late 1800s, and he composed a variety of music for violin, organ, chorus, and orchestra; his Violin Concerto #1 is a part of the violinist's standard repertoire. I've chosen an arrangement of his organ piece using the Hebrew melody of "*Kol Nidrei*" as the **Offertory** today. Mendelssohn also hailed from Germany and wrote a plethora of music during the early 1800s as a part of the Romantic movement in music; his works span from piano and organ music, chorus, symphonies, concertos, and chamber music. It is thought that his sister Fanny published several piano pieces under his name, as women composers were frowned upon during that time period in Europe. You'll hear one of his famous "Songs Without Words" for the piano today as the **Postlude**, set in the Tarantella dance style.

- *Molly Lozeau*,
Music Director

The Church Fair is a month away!

Reminder that it will be held **Saturday, October 14 from 10am-2pm** on FCU grounds and the Littleton Historical Society for the ever popular Trash and Treasure extravaganza. We have a wonderful plan and have expanded our footprint to include the dining room as our Country Cafe location and the driveway for an FCU Food Truck vibe which will include a smoker and hot dog cart.



We have flyers printed and could use your help dispersing them. To be helpful, grab some flyers at the church and distribute at supermarkets, favorite coffee shop, and community message boards in the area. They will be in the Volunteer Center Fair mailbox starting on Thursday.

Highlights and Requests

Trash and Treasures will be located in front of the Historical Society. Drop off of anything you would like to donate will occur 2pm-6pm on Friday 10/13. You may also drop Saturday morning from 8am-930am. Contact Hugh Vartanian, Bob Williams, or Mike Pilman with questions.

Books may be dropped at FCU the week leading up to the fair in the church vestry.

HELP! As always, your help is essential to our success. There are little and small jobs available. Here are a few options:

Friday
3-6pm
setup

Saturday
10am to 2pm:
Work a booth,
food cafe, or
children's
activities

Saturday
2-4pm -
helping with
break
down

Email fair@fculittle.com indicating your interest and availability. Laura Semple or Karen will respond with suggestions.

-The Fair Team, Karen Tucker-Barisano, Laura Semple, Debbie Eston, Susan Tordella-Williams, Bob Williams

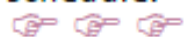
A Snapshot of Upcoming FCU Events for you and the community.

Invite a friend!

ENJOY SINGING?

We have a place for you in our choir.

Experience the well-documented physical and mental health benefits of group singing! It's free, fun, and flexible. We hope you'll consider giving our choir a try! Whatever genre of music you like, from the Beatles to Beethoven, there's room for many voices. Rehearsals are 7:30 – 9pm Thursdays and 9:15 – 9:45am most Sundays. The attendance policy is flexible. Music reading ability is helpful, but not required. Please email music@fculittle.org our Music Director Molly with questions, to indicate interest, and/or be added to the mailing list to receive the schedule.



Wednesdays

Jammin' in the Kitchen

Interested in learning how to make and can jam? In this group, participants meet weekly to create several types of jam to sell at annual festivals and fairs. Meetings are Wednesdays 7-9PM. Contact Kris Ersland for more information: kersland1@gmail.com.



Sunday, September 24
11:45am to 1pm

Join our ukulele fun group the UU UKES

Meetings are weekly on Sundays. For more information, contact: Eric ericsemp@gmail.com jrossdmd@verizon.net



Friday, September 29
2 to 2:45pm

Meditation Group

Meets online, weekly on Friday. All are welcome! No need to RSVP. Rev. Lara will be there, with as many – or as few – people who participate each week.

The [LINK](#)



Sunday, October 1
Noon to 1:30

Book Group: I Take My Coffee Black by Tyler Merritt

This fall The Racial Justice Action Committee is sponsoring a Book Group about this impressive and thought-provoking chronicle. Check out Merritt's YouTube [Before You Call the Cops](#). If you have difficulty getting the book, RJAC members will be happy to loan you a copy. Please email us racialjustice@fcu.org.



Monday, October 2
7 to 9pm

Caring for Our Aging Parents

This group meets via zoom Monthly on the first Monday. For those not yet familiar with COAP, this supportive group warmly welcomes you to join us. Zoom link: [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 868 2153 5108 Passcode: 840905 For more information: coap@fculittle.org



Friday, October 6
5 to 10pm

Membership Friday Food & Fun for All Ages

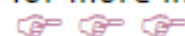
Enjoy an evening with the Membership team at FCU to learn more about us and our activities.



Monday, October 9
6:30 to 9pm

Survivors of Suicide Loss

This group meets Monthly on the second Monday. Contact Barbara Whitcomb: barbarawhitcomb@msn.com for more information.



Sunday, October 15
7 to 9pm

Men's Group

Meets every 2 weeks on Sunday Contact Joel Ross for more information: jrossdmd@verizon.net



Saturday October 28,
11am to 1pm

Sacred Circle Dance

Here we are again - nearing the end of summer. There's the harvest to gather and the waning sunlight to enjoy for remaining warm days. Let's move ahead with a circle of dance. Easy steps, all dances are taught, NO experience needed. Just bring a willing spirit and your water bottle (and a friend). For more info contact Ron Willett: rwillett@comast.net Upcoming dates: Nov. 25, Dec. 16.



Saturday, October 28
FCU Arts Playshop

The next Arts Playshop will take place on Saturday, October 28 from 11am-1pm. The focus is on exploring our creativity in many ways and sharing our process on the screen, not in learning a technique or producing a finished result. Niela usually facilitates and sometimes others in the group have ideas they would like to try. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Niela at nielam@comcast.net.

