



This will be a transition week, with Rev. Lara beginning her four-month Sabbatical, Rev. Kathy coming in for her Interim Ministry and Thea will be away on a holiday for the week.

Community Matters

January 21, 2024

Thea's R.E. News



This week we will be having an inter-generational service led by Reverend Lara. This is her last service till May. We will all miss her a lot, I know I will. Unfortunately, I will be missing this Sunday's service. I will be back next Sunday.

Please be sure your children do not go downstairs during coffee hour as things are set up for the OWL meeting. Thank you for your help with this.

In gratitude, *Thea*

Thea Shapiro
DRE FCU Littleton
(she/her)

Join us Sunday, January 21st at 10:00 for "Sabbath, Sabbatical, and Circles"!

Please join us this Sunday, January 21st at 10 a.m. for "Sabbath, Sabbatical, and Circles"! This will be my final worship service before my **sabbatical begins on Monday**. After the service, there will be some special "sabbatical sendoff" socializing. I hope you can be there! The service will be "multiplatform", both in-person and live-streaming.

The wearing of masks is recommended this week as Middlesex County has moved to a community risk level of "medium" for the first time in quite a while. Let's respect each other's decisions and varying comfort levels and circumstances.

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. 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](#). Grace, experimentation, learning, community and more will be ours this Sunday.

In faith,

Lara

Rev. Lara

Rev. Lara's Sabbatical Basics.

My sabbatical begins on January 22, 2024 and ends when I return to the pulpit on May 19, 2024.

Please visit <https://www.fculittle.org/sabbatical-basics/> to learn about my sabbatical plans and more!

It is an honor to share this ministry with you. I look forward to my return already! With love and faith, *Rev. Lara*



*International Women's Day
March 8*

Take a stand with us
#InvestInWomen

FCU Transcendental Tours

Steve Schroth, the Education Manager from the Trustees organizes education programming and group visits to two historic sites with ties to Transcendentalism: [the Old Manse](#) historic house museum in Concord, Massachusetts and [Fruitlands Museum](#) in Harvard, Massachusetts. As many of you know, the Old Manse was briefly the home of Ralph Waldo Emerson and is where he drafted his essay, *Nature* in which he laid out many of the core ideas of Transcendentalism. At Fruitlands, Bronson Alcott, father of Louisa May Alcott, sought to create a Transcendentalist Utopian community in which people would live according to their transcendental values. Steve offered to work with FCU to tailor an experience for a group from our congregation. To indicate interest in attending or organizing, email Bllu, [FCU_admin](mailto:FCU_admin@office@fculittle.org) at office@fculittle.org.

The Halalisa Singers present:

Be the Change:

SONGS OF COURAGE AND INSPIRATION

Powerful and diverse Choral music from Gospel, Country, Classical, Spiritual and Folk traditions

Works by Nick Page, Marques Garrett, Reena Esmail, Bob Dylan, Brandon Boyd, Naomi Judd, Rollo Dilworth, Sergio Ortega, Laura Farnell

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH • 7:30PM

Mary Cunningham
Artistic Director

Trevor Berens, Piano
Bertram Lehmann, Percussion

First Parish of Arlington
630 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA

\$25 General Admission
Tickets and information: www.halalisa.org

HALALISA
SINGERS

Join us at FCU for a Fun Inter-generational Gathering!

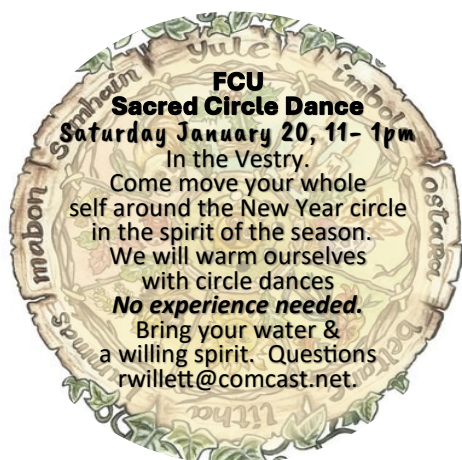
Friday, February 23 5:45 to 9 pm

HAPPY HYGGE ALL CHURCH: Friday Fun Potluck

First Church Unitarian, 19 Foster St. Littleton MA

Invite friends, family & neighbors! Bring something good to eat and a game you like to the Dining Room. There's also foosball!

Community Matters



DIGITAL SECURITY 101 FOR CONGREGATIONS

Monday, January 22 & Monday, February 5
4:30pm PT - 6:30pm PT / 7:30pm ET - 9:30pm

A Snapshot of FCU Events for you and the community. Invite a friend!

Saturday Jan 20. 11am to 1pm.

FCU Sacred Circle Dance

In the Vestry. Come move your whole self around the New Year circle in the spirit of the season. We will warm ourselves with circle dances .
No experience needed. Just bring your water bottle and a willing spirit.

Questions to Ron at rwillett@comcast.net.



Saturday, January 20. 2 to 3:30pm.

REGISTER

Environmental Justice and Building Our New Grid - Where Should It All Go?

In person at First Parish Concord . Online Join the MA Environmental Justice Legislative Table to discuss: how do we build the renewable distributed electric grid we need fast, while not the mistakes of the past? Learn about our vision for infrastructure, energy democracy, & centering frontline communities in the process, plus current policy proposal from the EJ Table to greenlight good projects & nip bad projects in the bud.
<https://bit.ly/EJ-Table-Forum>.



Monday, January 22

Rev. Lara's Sabbatical Begins!



Monday, January 22 & Monday, February 5.
7:30 to 9:30pm

Digital Security 101 for Congregations: A two-part virtual training

Sponsored by Side With Love & Equality Labs [Register](#).

Congregations are increasingly targets of online harassment, phishing, doxing, and other forms of digital hate – often as a result of the ways we embody UU values in the world. Many of our UU communities do not have the skills and the infrastructure to protect themselves from malicious digital targeting. [Equality Labs'](#) Digital Security For All Workshop dives into digital security, and what that means for you and your organization. We will develop common ground and shed light on types of attacks and security concerns, engaging with you at a strategic level. We cover practical steps to mitigate online harassment, fraud, & other forms of cyber attacks. We look at how the data broker ecosystem coupled with open-source intelligence (OSINT) from social media increases security risks. We look at key preventions like data broker scrubbing, phishing awareness, multi-factor authentication, password management, & VPN that can be immediately applied. This training for teams of 1-5 is open to congregational leaders, especially those who manage secure information such as congregational websites, social media, databases, and communication. The \$100 includes both sessions and is required.



Tuesday, January 23. 3 pm

Climate Change:

Simple, Serious, Solvable

First Parish Church United, Westford.

Sponsored by the Middlesex Conservation District, join Harvey Leonard for a talk about Climate Change: what is causing it, why it is serious, and what can be done as we look toward the future. He will also explain the important difference between weather and climate. Q&A will follow his presentation.



Tuesday, January 23. 7pm

Can New Fission / Fusion Tech. Help Fight Climate Change?

Metro-West Climate Solutions hosts this talk with David Butz from Eco-Nuclear Solutions and Aina Lagor from Energy for the Common Good. Metrowestclimatesolutions.org to [Register](#).



Sunday, January 28. 10 to 11am

Rev. Kathy's First Service in Pulpit

FCU's Four-month Interim Ministry Begins.



Deadline February 1 for Exhibition in March, 2024 [INFO](#)
Eco-Nuclear Solutions Call f or Art

Eco-Nuclear Solutions presents a juried art contest & exhibition at

the Fitchburg Art Museum Community Gallery. Free Entry for drawing, painting, small sculpture, mixed media, printed digital and poster submissions.

- Susan Tordella



Wednesday, February 7. 7:15 to 9pm

Pronouns 101 [ENROLL](#)

Prescott Community Center, Groton, MA, Room 108



If you've been confused by people's use of personal pronouns they/ them/their vs he/him/his or she/ her/hers), or would like more practice using these, Pronouns 101 is for

you. We'll discuss gender-neutral pronouns, why they're important, what they mean, and how they are used, and practice using them.

Li Kynvi (they/them/their) is dedicated to helping all ages become more fluent with personal pronouns outside the binary of he & she. They serve as student-minister-in-residence at First Parish in Groton and work as a mental health counselor and music therapist. Min Age 12yrs+. \$20.

Speaking of Pronouns!



Nature Needs a New Pronoun by Robin Wall Kimmerer 3.15





JAN. 23, 7 P.M.

Can New Fission/Fusion Technologies Help Fight Climate Change?

Nuclear power is often a divisive topic. Many experts believe that next-generation nuclear technologies could be an important option in our transition to a clean-energy future. Others are wary, expressing concerns about safety and waste disposal issues. This program will compare/contrast the latest fusion/fission technologies, so that listeners can draw their own conclusions.



Webinar Speakers

David Butz
Steering Cmte. Member,
Eco-Nuclear Solutions

Aina Lagor
Development Officer,
Energy for the Common
Good

Ross Trimby
Moderator



Register for this webinar at:
metrowestclimatesolutions.org

Photo credit: Rohan Makhecha on Unsplash



Custom, handcrafted gifts for Valentine's Day! Madd Love Market released NEW customizable products to help you show appreciation for someone special. All products are made to order in our downtown Lowell woodshop. [Shop Now!](#)

Personalized Valentine's Day Votive
A beautiful gift for that special person! This maple wood piece features a red tea-light candle and hand-colored hearts in its engraved

message, including the first name of your special person. Additional engraved text on rear of wood block is available. [Shop Now](#)

Personalized Couples Votive
Featuring a beautiful design centered on a two-candle maple wood votive. Supply us with two names and your special text and we'll create this heartfelt piece just for you! Additional engraved text on rear of wood block is available.

Your purchase helps the young adults in our Woodworking Social Enterprise gain hands-on work experience and socio-emotional skills as they build better futures for themselves, their families, and our community. [Click here to browse all available products now!](#)

-On behalf of the entire UTEC team and the Young Adults we serve, thank you for your generosity!