

Community Matters

April 13, 2025

RE CORNER

Sunday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m.:
"Severance and Self"!

The Sunday, April 13th (10 a.m.) service is "Severance and Self"! The service will be both in-person and live-streaming.

I will preach on some of my learnings from watching the amazing AppleTV+ series "Severance". The first two seasons are complete, which means that if you [subscribe to AppleTV+ for a month](#), you could binge-watch the whole thing! It is what some call a "mystery box" series, with some science fiction elements. But ultimately it's a thought-provoking series about what it is to be a person, and what consciousness is, and so much more. I believe you'll get something from it whether you watch the show or not. (Even if you just start the series before Sunday, it might enhance your enjoyment.)

As always you are welcome to join us in our beautiful sanctuary for our in-person Sunday service. We are continuing with our "masks-optional" policy for in-person church attendees. We also offer the opportunity to be part of the service from home through our Zoom and livestream on YouTube.

If you are watching from home, please watch and participate in our Sunday service via interactive [Zoom](#) or watch on [YouTube](#) (note that the Zoom link will take you to FCU's website, where you may need to enter the FCU password in order to click on the link).

We offer 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 on your smart phone if you prefer.

In faith,

Lara

Rev. Lara

Our April Share the Plate charity is Gould Farm

On Sunday, April 13, 2025, our April Share the Plate recipient will be Gould Farm. Gould Farm is a residential therapeutic community dedicated to helping adults with mental health and related challenges move toward recovery and independence through community living, meaningful work, and clinical care. Located on a 700 acre working farm in the Berkshires, this healing community specializes in offering a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment to adults who are living with mental health challenges. More information is available at www.gouldfarm.org

If you are at church in person, you can contribute to this organization by putting your donation into the basket passed at our offertory, either cash or a check payable to: Gould Farm.

If you are watching our service remotely, and wish to send a gift in any amount by check via US mail, the address is:

Gould Farm
Attn: Development
100 Gould Rd
PO Box 157
Monterey, MA 01245

Online donations can be made [using this link](#) with a credit card.



Last Sunday was fantastic... Thank you Molly and to everyone who came, sang, played and listened.

This week we will be painting flowers for the Littleton Cultural Council. And we will be discussing spring and what all the symbols mean of this time of year.

I hope your child can join us.

My April blog is up on our website please feel free to share your thoughts. This month is about Joy!

<https://www.fculittle.org/wonderings-a-hopeful-and-hopefully-helpful-blog-for-families-and-caregivers-3/>

We are in need of RE volunteers for the rest of the church year.

Working with our children and youth will put a smile on your face, and will remind you that life is good.

Please email me if you can help out

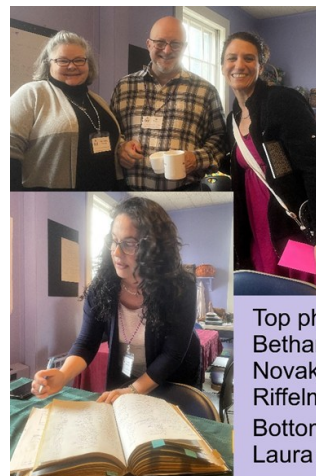
dre@fculittle.org

Families, please fill out the registration form. Link below. You may need to copy and paste the link in your browser.

Family Registration for children and youth

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d4YNBVGq0snV7SNC4x-4gzcrUx2ixlq1asPKYap0nJM/edit>

In peace and deep gratitude In peace and deep gratitude, *Thea*



Welcome to our four newest FCU members!



Top photo, left to right: Bethanne Novak, Gil Novak, Emma Bruns Riffelmacher.
Bottom photo: Laura Granato.



Easter Week at FCU...

On Thursday, **April 17**, from **7:00-8:00pm**, we will have a **Maundy Thursday Communion Service with Tenebrae**. We will be in the vestry. The service will be held with participants gathering around a large table. It will be an intimate communion service, co-led by Rev. Lara and the Deacons, combining elements of the humanistic "Unitarian Universalist Eucharist." There will be wine as well as juice available, and the bread will be available with gluten free and vegan options. We will live stream the service; if you do wish to (or need to) participate remotely, please have wine/juice and bread ready. The link will go out over the listserv.

There will be an **Easter Sunrise Service** at **AT&T Telephone Hill** in Littleton on **Sunday, April 20**. We gather at **5:45 a.m.** FCU is co-hosting along with the Congregational Church of Littleton.

And of course we will have our own **10 a.m. Easter service** on April 20th in our FCU sanctuary (and live-streaming). There will be some lovely music!

FCU Events. Invite a friend!

Thursday, April 17, from 7:00-8:00pm, Vestry
Maundy Thursday Communion Service with Tenebrae.

Sunday, April 20th, 5:45am
Easter Sunrise Service at AT&T Telephone Hill in Littleton. FCU is co-hosting along with the Congregational Church of Littleton.

Sunday, April 20th, at 11:30am, Alliance Room
Caring for Our Aging Selves. We invite women 65 and over to gather to share their experience of this amazing time of our lives.

April 26 from 11am-1pm
The FCU Arts Playshop meets on Zoom every 4th Saturday, from 11am-1pm. We gather to explore our creative process using art materials with time for creating and time for show-and-tell. All are welcome whether new to making art or more experienced. The focus

is on exploring our process, not on learning particular techniques. It's a time to feed our souls and to learn with and from each other. For information, please contact Niela Miller (nielam@comcast.net).

Saturday, May 3, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Screening of the short documentary *Finding Home: Stories From Recent Immigrants*. In this film, recent immigrants to New England tell their own stories. There will be discussion, action items to support immigrant rights, and a light supper afterwards. Sponsored by the Reclaiming Our Democracy group

Monday, May 5th, 7pm
Caring for Our Aging Parents/Partners
Meets via Zoom Monthly the 1st Monday. For those not familiar with COAP, this supportive group warmly welcomes you to join us. Zoom link: [Here](#)
Meeting ID: 824 5760 5068 and Passcode: 828964

Talent Auction Update

Just a gentle reminder to get your donations in by **9am on Wednesday, April 23**. The reminder is gentle but the deadline is firm. You can find the donation form on the FCU website at <https://www.fculittle.org/talent-auction-donation-form/>. Many thanks for your generosity and support!

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at TA@FCUlittle.org.
Your Talent Auction Team - Rochelle & Jackie

Women's Alliance Hosts Local Charities's Speakers This Saturday

Grace Miller, Client Services Coordinator of Loves & Fishes Pantry, Inc., Devens, MA and Liz Tretiak, Director of Elder & Human Services, Littleton, will speak at First Church Unitarian, Littleton on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 11AM, about their clients and the challenges they face, and how their organizations address those needs. Join the Women's Alliance for a Bring Your Own Lunch and Discussion afterwards in the Vestry.

Go Deeper, Meet Your Fellow Congregants: Join a Small Group Ministry!

During the heart of the Covid-19 pandemic, FCU began to offer Small Group Ministry again using the Soul Matters format. Two of the four groups that formed then still continue to meet! Several of your lay leaders and I think it's time to start up a new group for those interested.

What is Small Group Ministry? The UUA website describes it like this: "Small group ministry is intentional, lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. Two key focuses are *intimacy*, or building community and deepening relationships, and *ultimacy*, or the opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning. Small group ministry is also called covenant group ministry, because the members in a group make an intentional commitment to one another."

Groups with no more than eight members come together (either on Zoom or in-person, depending on the group's preference) usually once a month. There is a facilitator for each meeting, which *can* rotate among group members. There is a check-in, and always some type of spiritual-growth focus. This is (as the UUA website notes) an opportunity to form deeper connections with other church members and friends, and an opportunity to go philosophically and theologically deeper.

If you are interested in being part of a small group, please let me know as soon as possible! Email me at minister@fculittle.org. If you have questions, email or call/text me (508-615-1686). Once we have interested folks lined up, I will offer an "Introduction to Small Group Ministry" session. I will provide ongoing guidance to facilitators as needed and requested. – Rev. Lara

APRIL at last!



FCU Sacred Circle Dance

Saturday April 26, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Spring has arrived and we're glad for it. Let's circle 'round in grateful dance and fellowship once again. As always, newcomers and all novices are welcome. We dance in the FCU Vestry, easy dances, no experience needed, all dances are taught. Just bring a willing spirit and your water bottle. RSVP appreciated
In May & June we dance on the 3rd Saturdays.

Financial Update on Sunday, April 13th, at 6 PM on Zoom

Please join our treasurer, Dave McManus, for a brief review of our FY25 financial results-to-date and a preview of the FY26 budget based on current pledges. He'll share some of the key assumptions around the budget, as well as thoughts on where he sees risks ahead in the coming year (and there are plenty right now). This is a great opportunity to become more knowledgeable about our budgeting process and our prospects for FY26. Dave's presentations are always clear and concise; he'll answer all your questions!

See you there!

[https://zoom.us/j/91922306212?](https://zoom.us/j/91922306212?pwd=tQ8dKRQkTetoARrWrcY21NlgZI7bB0.1)
[pwd=tQ8dKRQkTetoARrWrcY21NlgZI7bB0.1](https://zoom.us/j/91922306212?pwd=tQ8dKRQkTetoARrWrcY21NlgZI7bB0.1)
Meeting ID: 919 2230 6212
Passcode: 223875



Sat. April 26, 8-2
King & Foster Sts., Littleton
Drop off Friday, 4/25, 4-6 pm



Donate anything BUT electronics, big furniture, car seats, clothing or shoes.
To benefit Learning Up, dedicated to education.
We'd love your help, too.
Contact susan.tordella@gmail.com