



Community Matters

April 26, 2026

Welcome to "Sacred Space"!

The 10:00 a.m. Sunday service on April 26th is "Sacred Space"! The service will be both in-person and livestreaming.

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. If you don't know the new password yet, note that my Saturday morning email will include the Zoom link for the service that does not require a password, the same link we've been using).

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.

Grace, experimentation, learning, fun, community and more will be ours this year!

In faith,
Lara
Rev. Lara

Dollars and Sense at FCU

Thank you to all who attended the FCU Financial Update meeting held via Zoom this past Sunday, April 19. For those who were unable to attend but are interested, please visit <https://bit.ly/42oYygd> to view a recording of the meeting.

FY26 (current fiscal year) Pledges - as of April 19, we have received 85% of the total amounts pledged. This is great, but we would like to close the gap! If you have any questions regarding your FY26 Pledge status or how to submit a pledge payment, please contact Debbie Eston at assistreas@fculittle.org. Note, *FY26 Pledges must be received by June 30, 2026 in order for us to count them towards FY26.*

FY27 (upcoming fiscal year) Pledges - as of April 19, we are 98.5% and only need another ~\$3,200 to reach goal! Please visit <https://bit.ly/3QXfcB1> to access the Online Pledge Form and help us close the gap by offering either a new FY27 pledge OR an increase to your existing FY27 pledge! **FY27 Pledges must be received by Sunday, April 26 to be included in the FY27 Budget.** If you have any questions regarding your FY27 Pledge status or how to submit a pledge payment, please contact Debbie Eston at assistreas@fculittle.org.

We are so appreciative of all of your financial gifts and support - our beloved FCU could not operate without them. *Sincerely, your FCU Finance Committee:*
Dave McManus (Treasurer), Debbie Eston (Assistant Treasurer), Lori Locascio (Standing Committee rep), Sara Weeks (Member-at-Large)

RE Corner

This week we will be continuing our project with Hugh...taking apart VCRs. It's a lot of fun and we are learning about how things go together, come apart and get recycled.

We hope you and your child/children can join us for this Sunday

Community Projects:
In the Vestry
Keep leaving gratitude's in the Gratitude Jar.
In peace,

The children and youth celebrated Earth Day.
This is Bella's Lego



What a Time It Was!

Wow! What a great Auction we had this year!

Although nerves were a bit on edge going into the last 2 days of bidding when we were only halfway to goal, this community came through spectacularly.

As always! We're happy to report that we exceeded our goal of \$21,000. **Thanks to all of you.**

I have decades of talking to other churches about their fundraising efforts and, believe me, FCU is a sparkly rainbow unicorn.

With sprinkles.

So many thanks to all who helped - Debbie Eston for doing all the financials, the MemberReach team for our celebration lunch, Dawn Maguire for helping with the raffle, Dave McManus for his support behind the scenes, and all of you - our fantastic donors and bidders. You hear from the Auction Team each week but it is truly a group effort and we are so thankful for your support!

The business stuff:

*Debbie Eston and Jackie Clement will be receiving payments during coffee hour for the next couple weeks. You can pay by cash, check or Venmo. You can also pay online through the Auctria check out process using a credit card (and we love if you can cover the credit processing fee) or **mail a check to the church attn: Assistant Treasurer.**

*Lists of the winning bids will be posted on the church website soon and we'll send the link asap. Raffle winners can be found now on the Auctria website: <https://FCULittleton.auctria.events> Winners tab

*A few raffle baskets remain in the downstairs dining room. Please pick them up. Some contain chocolate so the elves might get there first.

With enormous appreciation

The Auction Team - Rochelle, Jackie, Tamara
TA@FCULittle.org



Phased Plan for Changes to Sanctuary

In response to congregational input during the past

18 months, your Executive Team is recommending a phased plan of change for our sanctuary. An article authorizing the work will appear on the warrant for our Congregational meeting scheduled for May 17, 2026.

A series of presentations with opportunity for discussion are being offered to the congregation.

Remaining dates are as follows:

- o **Sunday, April 26, 11:30-12:30 in person in the Sanctuary and remote via the worship service link**
- o **Wednesday, May 6, 7:00-8:00 via Zoom (link to be provided)**

FCU Events. Invite a Friend!

Weekly meditation Friday 1:00PM online
<https://tinyurl.com/LovingKindnessSangha>

Friday, April 24th, 6:00PM to 8:00PM
4th Friday Food & Fun Vestry

Saturday: April 25, 11:00AM to 1:00PM
FCU Arts Playshop Zoom, We gather to explore your creative process using art materials with time for creating and time for show-and-tell. For more info, please contact Niela Miller (nielam@comcast.net). All are welcome

Sunday, April 26, 11:30-12:30
Phased Plan for Changes to Sanctuary
In person in the Sanctuary and remote via the worship service link

Saturday, May 2nd, 6:30PM to 8:30PM
Stronger Together: Art for Democracy Art Contest Celebration of Winners Sanctuary
Sunday, May 3rd– Gallery Hours 1:00PM to 4:30PM
Downstairs

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 6:00pm
Congregation FY27 Budget Review (via Zoom only)
Description: Join our Treasurer, Dave McManus, for a lively discussion on the FCU FY27 Budget!
Meeting Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96151233249?pwd=GlQeHTVqPwnjvb5hv8bgaMPz0TFpW.1>

Cafe Musicale, Saturday, June 6th, 7:00 PM

Save the date! The Music Committee is bringing back our tradition of celebrating music with a spring concert. This year the concert will take the form of an evening cafe, with vocal and instrumental performances by FCU members and friends. **If you are interested in performing, please contact Molly Lozeau (musisc@fculittle.org) or Peggy Britton (britton.ps@gmail.com).**

Stronger Together: Art for Democracy Opening Reception and Winner Announcement

Mark your calendars for **Sat, May 2 from 6:00-8:00pm** when FCU opens our doors to the community to showcase artworks celebrating Democracy. We will start in the Sanctuary with the announcement of the winners and express thanks to our sponsors. We'll zoom the event and show a slideshow of the entries on our big screens. Then we'll head to our transformed downstairs gallery exhibition and celebrate the creativity of many local artists. **Think Gala!** This will be an inspiring and uplifting event that promotes our American ideals and the strength of our unity in preserving our democracy. We are indeed "Stronger Together"! It's just the salve we need in these disturbing times. **The exhibit will also be open to the public on Sunday, May 3 from 1:00-4:30 pm.** We need volunteers to help with parking for the event and set up and cleanup. Contact Lynn Courtney or Lynda Kaylor

Join us to celebrate
Stronger Together - Art for Democracy

Reception & awards
Saturday, May 2
6-8 pm

Gallery hours
Sunday, May 3
1-4:30 pm

Free. All welcome.

First Church
Unitarian
19 Foster St.
Littleton, MA

ArtforDemocracy@fculittle.org

Sponsored by: Reclaiming Our Democracy of First Church Unitarian
League of Women Voters of Westford
Littleton Cultural Council & Westford Cultural Council

De-ICE Citizens Bank in Littleton MA Stand Out (bring your sign!)

***This Saturday, April 25, 11AM-12PM**
Citizens Bank, 272 Great Rd, Littleton MA
<https://mobilize.us/s/h7NCBC>

About this event: Show up at Citizens Bank to expose their customers and shareholders to the bank's immoral financing of for-profit ICE detention center companies.

Join the growing movement to influence the bank's management to choose morality over money, just as past movements successfully forced other banks to stop financing private prison companies.

Learn more at www.indivisiblelittletonmass.com.

A core principle behind all Indivisible events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values. If you are hosting your own event, we expect hosts to ensure all participants in your event uphold this commitment. **We recommend all participants review our safety and security resource before your event:**
<https://indivisi.org/safety>



Mentoring for Change: Volunteer in a Prison Public Speaking Program

Public speaking is a powerful skill that can transform lives, instill confidence and enable self-expression. Recognizing this potential, a volunteer program invites mentors to help incarcerated individuals in Shirley and Gardner to develop public speaking skills.

Speaking confidently can be a transformative tool for people rebuilding their lives. It empowers them to articulate their thoughts, share their stories, and build confidence. By practicing effective communication, people improve their prospects for employment and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

Mentors bring expertise, encouragement, and a fresh perspective to individuals who may feel isolated or discouraged. **As a mentor, you will:**

^Guide and Support: Help participants craft their speeches, offering guidance on structure, clarity, and delivery.

^Provide Feedback: Offer recommendations for improvement to help participants improve their public speaking skills.

^Inspire Confidence: Encourage self-expression and build self-esteem by creating a supportive learning environment. **Volunteering offers** personal rewards because contributing to someone's personal growth and witnessing their transformation can be deeply satisfying. Mentoring hones your leadership, communication, and teaching skills. You take part in encouraging people to build a new life different from their life before incarceration.

If you have a passion for mentorship, a willingness to learn, a sense of humor and patience, consider joining this volunteer program which is similar to Toastmasters. The best way to determine if prison volunteering is for you is to visit our program. One memorable evening will inform you if the program is right for you. Email [susan dot tordella](mailto:susan.tordella@gmail.com) at G mail to set up a brief phone call. The next step is a short application for a background check by the Department of Corrections [DOC], and then a visit to our program. Volunteers who commit to 2-3 nights a month will attend a DOC training session by Zoom.

Susan Tordella, a member of First Church Unitarian in Littleton, has been volunteering in prisons since 2010 and introduced many people to prison volunteering says "You think you will inspire them, yet it is often they who inspire us by their courage." You may call or text Susan at 978-846-2811 for information and/or invite her to speak to members of your congregation and/or fill the pulpit. See more at <https://tinyurl.com/MAprisonvolunteer>.

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 Meeting Zoom link:
<https://zoom.us/j/96151233249?pwd=GIQEhTVqpWnjvb5hv8bgaMPzzoTFpW.1>

The FCU Arts Playshop will meet on Zoom every fourth Saturday of the month in 2026 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.

Here are the dates for rest of church year for 2026:

April 25 May 23 June 27


For more information, please contact Niela Miller (nielam@comcast.net).

4TH FRIDAY FOOD, FUN & SING-A-LONG WITH CAROLYN

FRIDAY APRIL 24
6-8 PM





Potluck dinner
All ages welcome
Invite friends.
Bring: a favorite game or song
& a dish to serve
6-8 people



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 JUNE 14 - 21, 2026
 MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), where participants gather to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy decisions for the Association through a democratic process. While anyone can attend, congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates. More Information and to register at <https://www.uua.org/ga>

Declutter for a cause



<p>Please donate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothes, linens & blankets • Shoes, Handbags • Household goods • Books & media • Toys & sporting goods • Ask about other! 	<p>Dropoff</p> <p>In heavy black garbage bags & boxes only.</p> <p>May 15-16 May 21-22 9 am - 3 pm 15 Oak Ridge Drive, Ayer</p>
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THANK YOU from the Friends of the Ayer Senior Center
 For more information call Bonnie T. (617)548-3909
 All donations are tax deductible - The Ayer Senior Center is a (501)(C)(3) NonProfit
 Facebook: @friendsoftheAyerSeniorCenter

Flower Moon May 3rd & Blue Moon May 31st

UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH

FULL MOON GATHERINGS

sunday evenings
 nearest each full moon

<https://www.uumfe.org/spiritual-gatherings/full-moon-gatherings/>

Join us to celebrate
Stronger Together Art for Democracy
Reception & awards
Saturday, May 2
6-8 pm
Gallery hours
Sunday, May 3
1 - 4:30 pm
 Free - all welcome
 Accessible
 First Church Unitarian
 19 Foster St. Littleton, Mass
ArtforDemocracy@fculittle.org



Thanks to the League of Women Voters of Westford and the Cultural Councils of Westford & Littleton



FCU Hospitality Sign Up 2026



Food donations for Loaves & Fishes



Please Help!! Food donations for Loaves and Fishes are always needed. Boxes for non-perishable food are located at the front and side entrances of the church.
Thank You!!

Just a reminder that there are two peer-support groups for Caregivers at FCU.
COAP-Caring for Our Aging Parents (or Partners or Person)

We meet on Zoom every first Monday of the month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Please talk to Kris Erslund or Prisl Dumka for details.

Supporting our Adult Children

We meet on Zoom every second Wednesday of the month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM.

Please talk to Phyllis Terrey or Prisl Dumka for details.

We would love to have you join us.