



# Community Matters

May 3, 2026

## RE Corner

This A big thank you to Hugh for teaching us about taking apart VCRs and recycling!

**Congratulations** to Eloise and Julia! Last week was the final OWL workshop, and we celebrated with a fun game and ice cream. Thank you to Luann and Mark for serving as OWL facilitators this year.

This week, we will be talking about our

superpowers. If you could have a superpower that would help the world, what would it be?



We hope to see you and your children this Sunday.

In gratitude ,  
*Then*

## Welcome to "That's Sound Advice"!

The 10:00 a.m. Sunday service on May 3rd is "That's Sound Advice!" My sermon will feature some of the best advice that you have received. 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

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 6:00pm

### Congregation FY27 Budget Review

(via Zoom only) Description: Join our Treasurer, Dave McManus, for a lively discussion the FCU FY27 Budget!

Meeting Zoom link:

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

## 2026 Keeper of the Flame Nominations

Nominations are now open for this year's Keeper of the Flame award. Each year at this time we honor a member of FCU for sustained, outstanding service to our church community. The names of past recipients appear on a plaque in the vestry.

If there is someone you would like to nominate for this year's award, please send their name to the Deacons ([deacons@fculittle.org](mailto:deacons@fculittle.org)) or directly to myself ([richlombardy@verizon.net](mailto:richlombardy@verizon.net)) along with a brief statement of why you are nominating them.

If you have questions, please ask any member of the Standing Committee or Deacons.

Rich Lombardy, for the Deacons

## 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:

**Wednesday, May 6, 7:00-8:00 via Zoom (link to be provided)**

## Rise Up, Rai\$e Up for FCU Stewardship - FY27 Pledge

**Our Rise Up, Rai\$e up!! Stewardship time concluded on April 26th. What an amazing time it's been!!! \$209,408 was Rai\$ed ☑**

The Finance Committee and Stewardship Team members are grateful for the generosity these pledges represent and are reflected in the FY27 budget meeting the needs of this congregation we all love. A gentle reminder that pledges are always welcome and if you have any questions about your pledge (current or for FY27) or how to pledge, please let me know

(email: [assistreas@fculittle.org](mailto:assistreas@fculittle.org)).

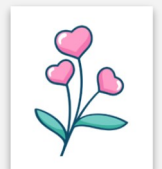
Looking forward to seeing you at the FY27 Budget Review (via Zoom only) this Sunday at 6pm With deep appreciation - Debbie Eston - Assistant Treasurer on behalf of FCU's Finance Committee & Stewardship Team.

## Check out the new plaque in the Memorial Garden

Special thanks to Bill Spencer whose support made the Memorial Garden possible. And to Hugh who has been indispensable in getting the job done!

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Memorial Garden. The hard part is done and now we have the fun of designing a lovely space, choosing plants, and handling watering and maintenance. Even if you are only available part time, we would love to have an extra set of hands. Contact any member of the Memorial Garden Team

Martha Childs, Bev Cyr, Bill Dustin, Lynda Kaylor, John Pepe, Pattii Sardella.



FCU Hospitality Sign Up 2026

All my hurts My garden-spade can heal.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



## FCU Events. Invite a Friend!

### Weekly meditation Friday 1:00PM online

<https://tinyurl.com/LovingKindnessSangha>

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

### Stronger Together: Art for Democracy Art 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=GlQEhTVqpWnjvb5hv8bgaMPzZoTFpW.1>

Wednesday, May 6, 7:00-8:00

### Phased Plan for Changes to Sanctuary

Remote via the worship service link

Sunday, May 17th 11:30AM

### Annual Meeting

Saturday: May 23, 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](mailto:nielam@comcast.net)). All are welcome

## Stronger Together: Art for Democracy Opening Reception and Winner Announcement

Finally, the contest is happening and FCU is going to shine at this fabulous event.

**Sat, May 2 from 6-8pm** 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 troubling 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, ushers, and cleanup.**

Contact Lynn Courtney or Lynda Kaylor



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 Erland 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.

## 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](mailto:musisc@fculittle.org)) or Peggy Britton ([britton.ps@gmail.com](mailto:britton.ps@gmail.com)).**

## SAVE the Date! June 14th Annual Strawberry Social hosted by the Deacons

Lists Please join us as we celebrate the end of another wonderful church year together!

Strawberry shortcake with whipped cream will be served (including vegan

and gluten free options) as well as blueberries for those with a strawberry allergy. We hope you can join us! .



## Who Won My Item? Did I Win That Pie?

Lists of who won what for both the raffle and online bidding are available on the website at <https://www.fculittle.org/talent-auction-catalogs/> .

Please be in contact with each other regarding details, delivery, etc. Again, great thanks to all who participated.

### Together we exceeded our goal!

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



## FCU Littleton Summer Camping Trip!

**Now is the time to get online and book your campsite for Massasoit State Park for our yearly camping trip, August 28-30 weekend.**

Some arrive Thursday 8/27, and/or leave Monday. (We usually book through Monday to have the option of leaving later, after the checkout time, on Sunday.)

Booking is done at [ReserveAmerica.com](https://www.reserveamerica.com)

<https://www.reserveamerica.com/explore/massasoit-state-park/MA/32611/overview>

We generally stay around the B22-B52 loop, concentrating toward the lower-numbered campsites.

The 4 month window is now open for this weekend so get on it for the best selection of sites (we are in B023)!!

If you haven't been before, it is a great time. We break bread together, do some gentle hiking, swim and reconnect around the campfire before church cranks up for the year. If you have been in the past, well, then, you know there are many repeat offenders...

For those fresh out of camping gear, post an inquiry; some of us have extra tents and such things!



## FULL MOON GATHERINGS

sunday evenings  
nearest each full moon

UU Ministry of the Earth

Flower Moon May 3rd & Blue Moon May 31st

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



## 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>



# SAND & STARS

JUNE 28 - JULY 5, 2026

Conference coordinated by Dan Harper & Thea Shapiro

Fourth of July fun for everyone! Come choose your own adventure during this special beachfront getaway in Maine!

Daily Highlights During Your Stay! Come Explore With Us.

- Special July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration: A cookout, live concert, games, fireworks on the beach...
- Field Trips
- Art & Ecology Workshops
- Campfire Songs & S'more Nights
- Daily Beach Time
- Game Night
- Talent Show
- Relaxing Yoga
- And More!



This summer retreat in coastal Maine offers renewal through art, nature, and community! Your greatest vacation awaits.



Enjoy our oceanside retreat center!



Experience seaside comfort!



Daily meals prepared by chefs!

<https://www.ferrybeach.org/sand-and->

LOCATION: MAINE

The **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK** is committed to sharing lived experience, time, and resources as we live into our mission: To empower the Beloved Community in honoring each individual's unique mental health journey towards wellness.

In 2018 several individual Unitarian Universalists interested in mental health started meeting and jointly and decided that the time was right to form a Unitarian Universalists Mental Health Network to work collectively on mental health challenges that affect our congregations and society at large.

About the network

<https://youtu.be/-6XMJHF-Fs8?si=WYdpGOeJDxhOo7Ru>

### Worship Service

for Mental Health Awareness Month (May) Sun, May 31

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/AJ>

Join us for our online worship service, "Our Faith Calls Us to Embrace Mental Health," featuring UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt and UUA Director of Congregational Life Natalie Aguila Briscoe, whose inspiring voices will uplift and motivate us. [RSVP](#)



Mental Health Awareness Month

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 31, 2026, 6:00 pm ET

REGISTER NOW

Join us for the online worship service **Our Faith Calls Us to Embrace Mental Health** featuring the inspiring voices of UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt and UUA Director of Congregational Life Natalie Aguila Briscoe to uplift and motivate us.

## Declutter for a cause



### Please donate

- Clothes, linens & blankets
- Shoes, Handbags
- Household goods
- Books & media
- Toys & sporting goods
- Ask about other!

### Dropoff

In heavy black garbage bags & boxes **only**.

May 15-16 May 21-22  
9 am - 3 pm

15 Oak Ridge Drive, Ayer

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

## Mentoring for Change: Volunteer in a Prison Public Speaking Program



Volunteers are invited to join a mentorship team for a public speaking program in Shirley and Gardner prisons.

People who enjoy encouraging others to build new skills can join a team to visit 2-4 times a month to offer the Speak Up program.

Learn more [HERE](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/>

With other volunteers, mentors follow a program similar to Toastmasters to practice self confidence, communication and leadership skills.

A commitment of 2-3 nights a month is required as well as a background check.

**Make a one-time visit to our evening program to determine if prison volunteering is for you, with no obligation to continue.**

Contact susan dot tordella at G m a i l to set up a short phone call for more information.

## Dukakis: Recipe for Democracy

Please join us at First Parish in Concord on May 15 at 7:00pm for a screening of Dukakis: Recipe for Democracy and Q&A with the producers/directors.

A Globe film festival short video follows Michael Dukakis as he reflects on his life and leadership, followed by a question and answer period with producer / directors Erin Trahan and Jeff Schmidt. The event is designed to nurture hope for the future of American democracy. Sponsored by the First Parish in Concord group Reclaim Our Democracy.

Tickets are \$20 and the proceeds support the ACLU of Massachusetts. Purchase tickets at the door or <https://tinyurl.com/FilmNightAtFirstParish>

## 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!!**

