



## Upcoming Worship Dates and Sermon Topics



- April 7th:** To be determined. Potluck following service.  
**April 14th:** "Between Hosanna and Hallelujah", Rev. Taylor.  
**April 21st:** "Liberation & Resurrection", Rabbi Yaakov 'Trek' Reef.  
**April 28th:** "Practices of Presence", Rev. Taylor.



### Notes from the Parish Committee

Here are some bullet highlights from our March meeting:

**Finances:** we are behind on realized income and over on expenses at the end of the first quarter. Building expense is tracking higher than expected and we are behind on the pledge income rate. Letters announcing the 2019 canvass and pledge forms are in the mail.

**Buildings & Grounds:** the PC is assuming the janitorial work and we need help from the congregation members and friends. A quarterly meeting was held with groups that use our building and some expectations were discussed and set by the Church representatives to this meeting. Compliance by the groups using the building with cleanup responsibilities will be monitored by spot checking to ensure accountability.

**Worship and planning for being a lay-led congregation:** we have lists of potential speakers who will be contacted by the Lay Worship Committee for services in church year 2019-2020; the Lay Worship Committee is also asking members and friends of the congregation for speaker suggestions and topics they would like to hear about; since we have contacts at 2 lay led congregations, we brainstormed questions to ask them about how they do things in their congregations.

Spring bi-annual meeting will be **May 5<sup>th</sup>** in conjunction with a potluck brunch. The Nominating Committee will be filling the slate of officers for the open positions to vote on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The April PC meeting will be on **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, the last Thursday of the month. All are welcome to attend

I do want to say a few words about the Covenant Workshop held on March 30. We had a group of attendees who were really engaged in accomplishing the goals of the workshop which were (1) exploring shared ministry and examining roles and activities (2) developing a rough outline of a congregational covenant and (3) exploring ways of presenting this covenant to the congregation and how to "live into" this covenant in the future. It was wonderful and very spiritual work done by all. We had a great facilitator from the UUA, New England Region who helped us realize our (both our small group of attendees as well as our larger congregation) potential and who also gave us tools to continue with the work we started on our workshop time together.

Our group will continue working on a covenant and you will hear more about the fruits of our efforts on May 5<sup>th</sup> at our bi-annual meeting

Until next time.....

### **"Between Hosanna and Hallelujah"**

**April 14th**

**Rev. Taylor**

Between the Hosannas of Palm Sunday and the Alleluias of Easter morning, there is life-or-death struggle – toward what purpose? For too many people, the cross has served to justify suffering and even sanctify violence. But Jesus proclaimed a gospel of love and non-violence, both in the way he lived and in the way he died. Today we reflect on the meaning of this event, and the life-affirming challenge it presents to us as people of liberal faith.

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### **"Liberation & Resurrection"**

**April 21st**

**Rabbi Yaakov 'Trek' Reef**

When we talk about liberation on Passover and resurrection on Easter, the stories are meant to lead us to a convicted heart, to change our direction toward wholeness and release. Earth Day joins to make this weekend a three-day festival of liberation, resurrection, and life. We'll worship and search for meaning in this together.

**Rabbi Yaakov 'Trek' Reef** walks in the world as a spiritual teacher and is a regionally recognized speaker, serving as a frequent guest in the pulpit at synagogues, churches, and meeting houses throughout the Northeast. He has also led workshops and classes for the Star Island Natural History Conference, Elat Chayyim Center for Jewish Spirituality, and Seaside Yoga Retreat Center in Oregon. In 2016, he completed a pilgrimage along the storied Appalachian Trail, taking approximately five million steps over 2189.1 miles between Georgia and Maine to find a deeper connection to the awe-inspiring natural world

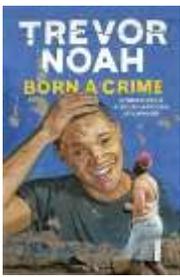
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### **"Practices of Presence"**

**April 28th**

**Rev. Taylor**

What makes us human is the quality of our encounters. Many of us live with divided attention: multi-tasking, running on auto-pilot, living in the past or future. What would it be like to be fully present to ourselves, to one another, to beauty, to the richness of the everyday world? This Sunday's sermon explores some effective ways of bringing our whole being into the present moment, and the consequences of doing this.



**Book Group Meeting  
Friday April 26, 2019 at 7:30pm  
in church office**

**Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood  
by Trevor Noah**

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

**1st Church Wish List**

Socks for both men and women

· Food pantry items:

- o Pasta Sauce
- o Peanut butter
- o Canned fruit
- o Canned vegetables
- o Canned meats and tuna
- o Personal care items: combs, brushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, small bars of soap, razors and shaving cream, mouthwash

· Food pantry items no kitchen needed:

- o Peanut butter or cheese cracker sandwiches
- o Granola bars
- o Protein bars
- o Flip-top cans of ready to eat foods; pasta, soup, meat, tuna
- o Small bottles of water

Plastic cutlery rolled in a napkin

Gallon sized ziplock bags

**All Donations Are Greatly Appreciated !!**



**First Church Tee-Shirt For Sale**

The membership committee is having tee-shirts made up with the First Church Leominster UU name on them so that we may proudly promote our church as we attend events and actions within and around the community. We are currently taking orders; prices are S-XL \$7.50 and 2XL – 4XL \$10.50. T-shirts are navy blue with light gray lettering and a flaming chalice symbol.

**First Church Unitarian Universalist  
Mission Statement**

We are an open and accepting community working for justice and equality for all through nurturing relationships and providing service to each other and in the greater community

**Contacts:**

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**Attention!!**

**Newsletter via E-Mail**

We are no longer doing a hardcopy bulk mailing. If you would like to continue receiving a copy or know someone who would like a copy, please contact the office and let us know your email address. Contact Lenore at [1stchurchoffice@verizon.net](mailto:1stchurchoffice@verizon.net) Subject: add to newsletter email

If you need a hard copy please call the office and give Lenore your address.

**Newsletter Contributions**

If you want to contribute anything for May's newsletter, please send it to [cauhlig2002@yahoo.com](mailto:cauhlig2002@yahoo.com) by

**April 18th.**

## Minister's Availability and Office Hours

# Dates to Remember

## ☞ April ☞

**April 7th:** Potluck after church service

**April 8th:** Lady B's Meeting, 7pm

**April 11th:** Membership Committee meeting 6pm

**April 25th:** PC Meeting 6:30pm

**April 26th:** Book Group Meeting 7:30pm

**Every Saturday:** Hot Soup Lunches, 1 to 3

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## April Birthdays

Jennifer Guiry.....April 2  
Rev. Tom Wintle....April 2  
Derek Kerswill.....April 5  
Donna Caruso.....April 5  
Lauren Soucy.....April 7  
Patty Lancey.....April 7  
Rorie Good.....April 9  
Joan Damon.....April 13  
Sarah Paquette.....April 14  
Rev. Susan.....April 21  
Eddie Good..... April 22

I respond promptly to emails and cell phone messages (603-233-3554) between 9:00am and 9:00pm, Tuesday through Sunday. (Monday is my Sabbath). For pastoral emergencies, please call me anytime and I will respond as soon as I can. This month, I will be in the office on the following days:

- Wednesdays April 3, April 10, April 17 and April 24 from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Thursdays April 4, April 11 and April 25 from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- Thursday April 18 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Since these hours may change due to unforeseen circumstances, I encourage you to call ahead



## Ladies Benevolent Society

The Ladies Benevolent Society will meet on **April 8th** at 7pm at First Church in the lower level of the building. We will have a short business meeting followed with instruction by Lauren Soucy in the art of making mandalas. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Ladies, come and join us! Questions? Please contact Chris at [cauhlig2002@yahoo.com](mailto:cauhlig2002@yahoo.com) or at church on Sunday.

We are currently taking orders for Easter plants as part of a fund-raiser. Samples and an order sheet are in the back of the church; prices from \$4 for 4" pot, \$8 for 6.5", \$13 for 8", \$19 for 10". Order deadline is April 7th with delivery on Easter, April 21st. Plants include tulips, daffodils, hyacinth, mini-iris, and crocus.



## Spring Prayer

Spirit of Life, we come seeking stillness.  
The world is bursting with greens,  
with frenetic energy and a desperate need  
to fill the empty spaces with life.

We are bursting, too,  
our hands frantic to fill the blank slots on our calendars  
and the empty spaces in our gardens.  
We all have leafless branches and flat, dark soil.  
There is no guarantee  
that we will sprout this year as we have before.

Spirit of Life, we seek your blessing,  
May your hands join ours as we tend our gardens,  
coaxing life from our sleeping seeds,  
May you stir with us in the quiet,  
settling our hearts into a space for waiting,  
taking in the sun and rain so that we, too, might bloom.

Blessed be.

—Jess Reynolds  
*Love Like Thunder*

Available at inSpirit:  
The UU Book and Gift Shop





"The March 30<sup>th</sup> First Church UU covenant workshop attendees, Diane O'Hare, Paula Murphy, Betsy Moran, Mark Moran, Rev. Bruce Taylor and New England Regional Facilitator, Mary Heafy, after a good day of planning

