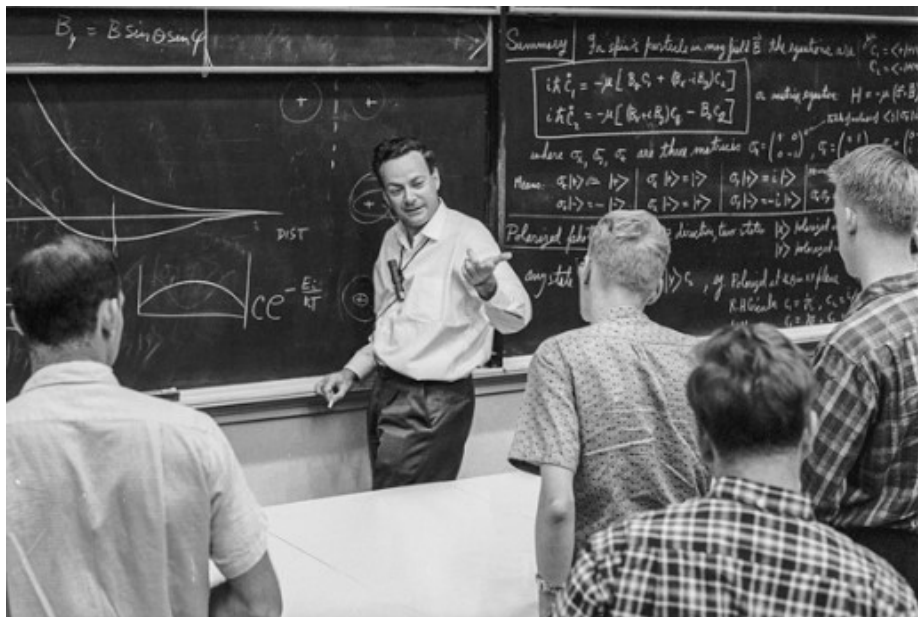


# First Unitarian Church of Omaha

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

10:00 A.M.



Nobel Laureate Theoretical Physicist Richard Feynman in His Classroom at Cal Tech

# Order of Worship

September 18, 2016

10:00 A.M.

## GATHERING

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### BELLSOUND

### PRELUDE

“The Gift to Be Simple”

— Am. Shaker Tune/Wood

### WELCOME

### STORY FOR ALL AGES

Kate Wiig

### \* LIGHTING THE CHALICE

*(\*Indicates congregation stands as they are able.)*

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

— Albert Schweitzer

### SINGING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR CLASSES

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.

May the Spirit of Love surround you

Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nadine Keith

### OFFERTORY

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

— Wood

*The Share the Plate beneficiary for the month of September is **Project Everlast**  
Change for Change beneficiary is **Neighborhood Ministry.***

## REFLECTING

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**A MOMENT OF SILENCE** concluded with a bellsound

### FIRST LESSON

— from Richard Feynman

### SECOND LESSON

— from Emo Phillips

### SONG

### SERMON

“Our Church”

Rev. Frank Rivas

## AFFIRMING

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### \* HYMN (#318)

“We Would Be One”

### \* BENEDICTION

— from Theodore Parker

### POSTLUDE

“Fanfare and March”

— McConnell

Organist: Patricia Will

Early Morning Risers

Pianist: Stan Harper

**Share the Plate.** Each month one-half of the loose currency in the offering plate is donated to a cause with a local presence which advances important principles of Unitarianism. This month's recipient is **Project Everlast**. **Project Everlast** is a grassroots effort that promotes using community resources to improve a youth's opportunities and networks for housing, transportation and health care.

**Change for Change.** Each week generous people put change in the collection plate. This change goes to our Sunday School youth who decide where the money can be best utilized. In the past they have contributed to Community Meals and International Bridges for Justice. This year youth have identified the recipient as Neighborhood Ministry Team, which purchases bus tickets, and food cards and provides blessings bags to people who come to our church requesting help. Your change makes a difference! Thank you for your generosity!

Rev. Frank Rivas, Minister ([minister@firstuomaha.org](mailto:minister@firstuomaha.org))

Rev. Ron Knapp, Minister Emeritus

Jan Wilson, Director of Religious Education ([dre@firstuomaha.org](mailto:dre@firstuomaha.org))

Carrie Helmberger, Membership Coordinator ([coordinator@firstuomaha.org](mailto:coordinator@firstuomaha.org))

Catharine Dixon, Church Administrator ([admin@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org))

Jenny Hastings, Nursery Coordinator

Patricia Will, Organist

William Miller, Choir Director

Stan Harper, Pianist

Robert Medrano, Custodian

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 25 , 2016

### TODAY

**Flowers:** Thank you to Louise Jeffrey for providing today's chancel flowers.

**Hospitality: The Open Arms Hospitality Team** is serving you today. Our team serves on the fourth Sunday of odd months. You will recognize our team members by their green hospitality ribbons. Please let us know if you need anything or have questions.

**11:00 a.m. — Board Talk Back — Common Room** The church board wants to hear from you and will have a table set up to discuss issues that are important to the congregation.

**11:15 — First Steps — A Class for Visitors — Whitney Young Room**

Gather at the visitors table in the Common Room. You are invited to join us as we gather together to get acquainted with the basics of Unitarian Universalism and our vibrant community. There are many ways to connect with the church, and we look forward to discussing the unique opportunities offered by First Unitarian Church of Omaha. Future dates: 10/23, 11/20, 12/18. Questions?

Contact Carrie at [coordinator@firstuomaha.org](mailto:coordinator@firstuomaha.org)

**Visitors:** You are invited downstairs after the service for coffee and, if comfortable, asked to take a blue cup which indicates you would enjoy conversation with members. Please also visit the Welcome Table where you can find information on Unitarian Universalism and our church. All visitors, their friends and relatives, and friends and relatives of members are welcome to attend all church functions and social events.

**Assisted Listening Devices** and Large Print Orders of Service are available in the church entryway for your use. Greeters can direct you to these resources

**Please sign in on the pink sheets in each pew.** The information gathered will not only help us count attendance at each service, but will let us know that someone has not been seen lately and may need assistance.

**Parking:** If you are able to park in the MidTown Crossing garage to the west of our parking lot, it would leave our small parking lot for visitors and those who need to park close to the building.

**Children:** The sanctuary foyer has a speaker and comfortable chair for those who need a place to comfort a child during the service.

**11:20 a.m. — Sunday Forum: “Why We Need a Price on Carbon” — Sanctuary**

*Coffee hour is 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. Please, no food or drink in our beautiful sanctuary.*

Frances Mendenhall will present the case for a price on fossil fuels that is 100% returned to American households, followed by a discussion. As climate scientist James Hanson often says, "as long as there are cheap fossil fuels, somebody will burn them."

**11:30 a.m. — Bridge Group — Conference Room** Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. This Group is also a class. If you are a complete novice, join us to learn how to play this age-old game. It will boost your memory and your deductive reasoning skills. If you have played before, come for some time at the game table. We usually play for about two hours. Questions? Contact Scott at [scott.kemper@gmail.com](mailto:scott.kemper@gmail.com).

**12:30 p.m. — Parents Meeting for Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class — Common Room**

Parents of Kindergarten & First Graders who plan to attend OWL class are required to attend today's meeting. Attendance is also required at a Parent Orientation meeting on Sunday, October 9. The class will run from 10/16 to 12/11 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs classroom. No class on Sunday, Nov. 27.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 26 — Book Club — 7:00 p.m. — Merritt Lounge**

We will discuss *Mothers, Tell Your Daughters* by Bonnie Jo Campbell. For more information, contact Dave at [richardson.david@westside66.net](mailto:richardson.david@westside66.net)

**September 26 — Omaha Polyamory Discussion Group — 7:00 p.m. — Common Room** We meet every fourth Monday from 7pm-9pm. We invite any who embrace and support ethical non-monogamy-based loving relationships. We strive to offer a safe place to meet and discuss topics, issues and hardships we face as polyamorous individuals and families. If you have any questions, please contact Susan at [iamdosh@msn.com](mailto:iamdosh@msn.com).

**September 27 — Meditation — 8:00 a.m. — Sanctuary** This group meets Tuesdays in the sanctuary for meditation and mindfulness practice. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come to relax, breathe, or just enjoy some peace and quiet in our beautiful sanctuary.

**September 27 — Taoism Discussion Group — 6:30 p.m. — Common Room**

Join us to discuss anything and everything related to Taoism! As Taoism is best understood through practice rather than theory, the goal of this group is to provide a participatory space to explore how Taoism is applied in daily life, with an emphasis on experience. With our direct experiences as a reference point, we can then delve into the main texts of Taoism. Group leader is Geoff Erikson, [gerickson03@yahoo.com](mailto:gerickson03@yahoo.com).

**September 28 — Youth OWL Parent Meeting — 6:00 p.m.**

**September 28 — Choir Rehearsal — 7:00 p.m.**

**September 28 — YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Youth Group Meeting — 7:00 p.m.**

**October 2 — One service at 10:00 a.m. — “Justice, the Other Name of Love” — Rev. Frank Rivas**  
Too often we define religion by unprovable beliefs, but the great religious leaders showed little interest in such beliefs. They spoke of how we treat the lives around us.

**October 2 — Sunday Forum: “The Humanist Manifesto and Its Implications”**

— 11:20 a.m. — Sanctuary presented by Dave Richardson.

**October 2 — Young Adult Discussion Group — 11:30 a.m.** We meet on the first Sunday of each month at Delice (3201 Farnam St #6112). Calling all people aged 18-35 within this age range. We will be covering any topic that we think is relevant to who we are and our lives. Join us!

**October 4 — Examined Life Group — 7:00 p.m. — Merritt Lounge** This new group, hopefully to be made up of adolescents and elders equally mixed to males and females, aims to explore and review one’s view of self and the world-at-large. In getting acquainted, we shall explore the following questions: Who am I? How do I know who I am? What is my purpose in life? How do I create or recreate myself? What are the specific challenges for living in the 21st Century? To address those questions we shall discuss Things [living and dead] and Ideas. We will be exploring people in relation to basic societal relations, i.e. (1) political and (2) religious leaders, (3) providers of food, clothing and shelter, (4) scientific and (5) educational figures and (6) creators of the arts and leisure. Meetings will be conducted through a Socratic method of general discussion initially led by Doug Wagner and then by rotating or voluntary leadership. As we come to know one another through our personal stories, we shall then integrate selected articles and essays as participants make their suggestions. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Jack Heidel at [jackheidel@yahoo.com](mailto:jackheidel@yahoo.com)

**October 7 — CommUUnity Night — 5:30 p.m. — Common Room** If you haven’t participated before, CommUUnity Night is a fun, laid-back all church event. We gather for a potluck of side items (R.E. will provide the main dish) and we don't worry about who is bringing what. Kids are free to play. If you can't bring anything or you are feeling too rushed to grab or make something last minute COME ANYWAY! There is always plenty of food and what we really want is YOUU!

**October 8 — Black Lives Matter 101 Class — 3:00 p.m. — Whitney Young Room**

This is an intensive, interactive workshop exploring strategies to facilitate engaging conversations concerning uncomfortable topics that function on creating equitable spaces. This session is for people who want to become facilitators to help teach within the church. Class size is limited. To reserve your spot email Rene at [sweetnlow@cox.net](mailto:sweetnlow@cox.net).

**October 10 — Women’s Alliance — 6:30 p.m. — Common Room**

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend. Socializing and beverages at 6:30 p.m. with dinner following at 7:00 p.m. Mary Kay Peters will lead us in a celebration of the feminine spirit and our female ancestors. Participants are encouraged to bring a picture of a beloved female relative. The \$15 cost of dinner goes to the Merritt Education Fund, the Partner Church scholarship, and other First U activities. If this will be your first time at a WA get-together, please be our guest! Our dinner will be a selection of soups (cheese and broccoli, chicken vegetable, tomato basil, and vegetarian barley) and a salad bar with a variety of breads. RSVP to [kathryn.oliver@outlook.com](mailto:kathryn.oliver@outlook.com) or 402-214-2718 (leave a message).

**October 13 — Women's Religious Studies' Covenant Group — 1:00 p.m. — Merritt Lounge** Sister Maureen will be our facilitator for Chapter 10 “Miracles in Listening Hearts.” All self-identified women are most welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Harriet Major at [402-391-0248](tel:402-391-0248) or at [hmajor323@cox.net](mailto:hmajor323@cox.net). Please note: The Covenant Group will be meeting in October on the SECOND Thursday of the month.

**October 13 — Tolerant Atheist Group — 7:00 p.m. — Common Room** We will return to our traditional discussion format. The topic: our visions for TAG. What does, and could, TAG mean to: you, our church, the Omaha Atheist community, UU Humanists, UUA? What is your vision for TAG and how do we get there? Discussion may include ideas for our church website page and brochure. Gather your thoughts and come. Doors will open at 6pm for those interested in “Bring Your Own Dinner.”

## **HALLOWEEN HEART & HAND AUCTION PARTY!**

**Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 6-10 pm**

Mark your calendar and get involved! Many helpers, donors, and partiers are needed to pull off this important annual FUNdraiser for our operating budget. Share a favorite fall food at the potluck. Buy raffle tickets to win “Early Bird Bidding” at the Silent Auction--and collect your gummy worm! Plan to surprise us with a crazy costume (for those so inclined). *Most important right now: let us know what YOU can donate to the auction!* In addition to intriguing stuff, the auction features sharing our time and talents, such as offering a dinner, leading a beer crawl, or helping others learn a new skill. Childcare is free (infant-5<sup>th</sup> grade) by reservation. For auction info and sign-ups, stop by the AUCTION TABLE during coffee hour, go to the AUCTION WEBSITE (use QR code above or link on [www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.org)), or email [auction@firstuomaha.org](mailto:auction@firstuomaha.org). Same email (or call Donna at 402-699-3183) for anything related to the Auction. Use the website to browse the growing Auction Catalog and pre-bid ahead of the auction (get your bidder # at the Auction Area). Don't miss the auction action!

## **OUTSIDE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Nebraskans for Peace Potluck Lunch**

September 25 at 1:00 p.m. at Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, 4444 Frances St.

The guest will be Attorney Tarek Abuata, Executive Director of Friends of Sabeel North America. He was born in Bethlehem, and moved to Texas at age 12. He has led several faith-based organizations to raise awareness of the plight of Palestinians, to seek justice by nonviolent means, and to promote development in Palestine.

### **OTOC Accountability Session with Candidates for Unicameral**

Plan to attend Omaha Together One Community's Accountability Session with candidates for the Unicameral on Thursday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the OPS Board Room (3215 Cuming St.). Learn where candidates for Districts 7, 9 and 13 stand on OTOC's Action Agenda including Medicaid expansion, environmental sustainability, mental health care, community violence, immigrants & refugees and death penalty. Join OTOC in making this election about issues, not personalities or parties. Go to [www.otoc.org](http://www.otoc.org) for more information.

## WAYS TO HELP

### **YES (Youth Emergency Services) Meal Prep**

Tuesday, October 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the church kitchen. We will be serving chicken and noodles, chili, bread/rolls and dessert. Organizer Kim Callaghan would like donations of bread/rolls, deserts and plastic silverware/bowls. Personal care items always welcome! Dinner needs to be delivered at 2:00 p.m. Two volunteers would be awesome! Please email Kim at [kjcallaghan@hotmail.com](mailto:kjcallaghan@hotmail.com) to volunteer. Thank you!

### **Hope in Action**

Hope in Action, a sub-team of the Caring Team, offers support to any church member, friend, regular attendee or family member in need of assistance. Hope in Action is there when people are dealing with a medical problem, need transportation or help around the house, can use assistance with referrals to social service agencies or just need someone to talk to about the difficulties of life. You may send an email to [hopeinaction@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:hopeinaction@firstuuomaha.org), use the Hope in Action link on the church website, call the church office and press ext. 105 to leave a telephone message for Hope in Action, or complete a Caring Card located in the church pews and place it in the designated box in the common room.

### **Blessing Bags**

The third annual Blessing Bag Day is Saturday, November 5 at the Inclusive Life Center (1941 South 42nd St. Suite 124, Omaha). Drop off time: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Build the bags time: 12:00-2:00 p.m. We will have 100 nylon drawstring bags to hold each of the blessing bags! We are excited about this addition. These bags will be handed out via First Unitarian Church and a few will be given to Pastor Kenith and Siena/Francis House. We need your help, time, donations and your help finding resources for these items. The shelters are tracking higher numbers than usual for this time of year, and they are seeing more mothers with children. This year we are also collecting scrubs (new or used.) On blessing Bag Day, we will collect ANY donations of used/new clothing and give them directly to the Siena/Francis House. For details, please visit [www.inclusivelife.org/blessingbags](http://www.inclusivelife.org/blessingbags) or visit our Facebook event for details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/321423061535132/>. You may email Royal at [info@inclusivelife.org](mailto:info@inclusivelife.org) for more information. Thank you!