

May 2016

The Flame



**The Monthly Newsletter
of First Unitarian Church
of Omaha**

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this Month

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Information

Sunday, April 3 First Unitarian Church hangs our banner.



Sunday Services — All are welcome

May 1 — Two Services at 9:30am and 11:15am
"One Talk At a Time ..."

Jackie Anderegg

Rape in America. A May Day call to our good men.

Summer Schedule Begins

Starting Sunday, May 8, we begin our summer schedule with only one service at 10:30am followed by a coffee hour down in the Common Room.

May 8 — One Service at 10:30am
Annual Youth-Led Service!

Come and participate in a youth-led service and experience what always promises to be a fun and inspiring time! We will hear from our Graduating Seniors as they bridge from youth to adulthood. Our youth group is called YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). For more information, please contact omahayruu@gmail.com.

May 15 — One Service at 10:30am
Annual Concert

The choir will present numbers that it has sung throughout the year plus madrigals and an instrumental duet. Of course, the prelude and postlude will be offered by organist, Pat Will. Adding special talent to the service will be members of EMR. Please support your exceptional First U musicians.

May 22 — One Service at 10:30am
"What Binds Us One to Another"
Rev Frank Rivas

As we have become increasingly aware of differences within our church community, it's time to reflect on what binds us together. The sources of our living tradition connect us as theists, atheists, earth-centered, and none of the above.

May 29 — One Service at 10:30am
Lemon Sermon:
"Confessions of a Moderate Unitarian"
Barb Ross

Can one really be a moderate Unitarian? Barb Ross has been a part of First Unitarian since 1953 and she will share how this church shaped her ideas on religion and the world.

Rev. Elations

Monthly Column from our Minister, Rev. Frank Rivas

I will take six weeks of sabbatical beginning May 30. Sabbaticals are designed to give ministers a chance to do something that will renew their ministry. Some take classes (I've done that); some study abroad (I've done that); some get involved with activities entirely different from ministry (I've done that). But I'm taking none of those options. I'm going to use my sabbatical to write.

I have some trepidation about mentioning my sabbatical plan. What if, after finally setting aside time to write, I find that I don't like to write or that I don't have anything to write about or that I simply prefer the weekly deadlines of sermons to one huge project?

What if? First of all, I don't plan to give up easily. Giving up would not only mean adjusting my sabbatical plan, but would also mean adjusting my self-concept.

Having named my demon, let me also say that I look forward to having the time to reflect and to write about what I have learned as my years literally reach three score and ten. Wish me luck!

And I wish you time this summer for your own renewal and refreshment. Life is demanding, and we each need times to replenish ourselves.

Blessings and love,
Frank

Lunch With the Minister

Thursdays at noon in the Common Room. All are invited to join Rev. Frank for a "bring your own brown bag lunch." Lunch will be held Thursday, May 5, May 12 and 19. We will take a break over the summer. If we meet informally as a group, we will announce it in the enews the week before.

Meditation

Tuesdays at 8am in the sanctuary. Join fellow congregants to practice mindfulness and meditation at this gathering. All are welcome.

Church Events

Speed Meeting

Sunday, May 1 during the 10:30am coffee hour. Back by popular demand! This is a great way to get to know other church members a little better, with a couple suggested topics and three minutes per conversation. Participation by all is encouraged. Sponsored by Mystic Sojourn CUUPS.

Mystic Sojourn CUUPS

Sunday, May 1 to celebrate Beltane. Carpool leaves from First U at 5:30pm to go to Narrows River Park just north of Council Bluffs, IA on the Missouri River. The celebration starts at 6pm at the park with a hot dog cookout, a spiral dance around a Maypole (everyone bring a 2-3 foot ribbon) with fiddle music, and a drum circle. Finishing with s'mores for dessert! This is a family event.

Book Club

*Monday, May 2 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. We will discuss *Merchants of Doubt, How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* by Naomi Oreskes, the next Holland Lecture speaker. For information, email Dave at richardson.david@westside66.net.*

People's Film Festival

Monday, May 2 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will show GMO-OMG. This provocative documentary follows one father's search for answers to the question "What are we feeding our families?" and examines the risks of consuming genetically modified foods or GMOs.

CommUnity Night

Friday, May 6 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. We gather for a potluck of side items (the main dish will be provided by RE) and eat together as a group and then just chill. 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!

Sunday Social Gathering (Second Sunday of every month)

*Sunday, May 8 at 7pm in the Common Room. This month we will watch *De-Lovely: the Cole Porter Story*. Go to this link for info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0352277/>. Light snacks provided. Bring some to share if you like. Questions? Call Royal at 402-999-1379.*

Women's Alliance

Monday, May 9 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend this gathering. Socializing starts at 6:30 with dinner (heavy appetizers and dessert) following at 7pm. Bill Kuhn from Second Unitarian will be our guest with a presentation. We will be donating to Y.E.S. (Youth Emergency Services) for their programs (and the mustaches for kids campaign that happens in May). We ask for a minimum donation of \$5 that will be donated to Y.E.S. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. RSVP by May 7 and please indicate if you are bringing an appetizer or dessert. Contact kathryn.lewis.kl@gmail.com or call 402-214-2718 (please leave a message).

Election Day Bake Sale

Tuesday, May 10 at church. Can you help bake? Want to help sell treats? We are looking for volunteers. All funds raised will go to YRUU, our Youth Group. Contact Kathi at kathryn.lewis.kl@gmail.com.

Holland Lecture

Wednesday, May 11 at 7pm at the Holland Performing Arts Center. See page 7 for information.

Y.E.S. Meal

Thursday, May 12 at 9am in the kitchen. Volunteer to help cook or bring supplies. See page 15 for details.

The Tolerant Atheist Group

Thursday, May 12 at 7pm in the Common Room; Doors open at 6pm for bring-your-own dinner. As a "Free Thinker," have you ever grappled with the following questions? How are we responsible for our decisions? How do religion, philosophy and science help us or harm us in making choices? Doug Wagner, Ph. D. historian and psychotherapist, will once again be speaking to the group and generating discussion. The last time he spoke and facilitated discussion, the group was enthralled. Join us as Doug relates three moral stories to help us wrestle with these uncertainties.

POPS (Parents of Preschoolers)

Friday, May 13 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. Join us for fun and potluck plus pizza. We will have childcare available. We gather together for fellowship and fun, and we always have a good time.

Church Events Continued...

Lend a Hand ... Help Make It

Sparkle: All-Church Clean-up day!

Saturday, May 14, 8am to noon.

Our House and Grounds/Chalice Guild has scheduled an all church clean up. This is an opportunity for all to help dust, wash, sweep, vacuum, sort, organize, and polish our church to make it shine. Coffee and bagels will be available for nourishment.

Annual Meeting —

The 147th Annual Congregational Meeting of First Unitarian Church of Omaha will take place at the Church on Sunday, May 15 at 12pm.

Eligible voting members* of the church will adopt an operating budget for the 2016-17 church year and elect a President-elect, members of the Board of Trustees, a Trustee of the Trust Fund, and Nominating Committee members; hear select reports from church leaders; and reveal our Unitarian of the Year!

Childcare will be provided and your Board of Trustees will host coffee hour following the 10:30am service and provide snacks and drinks to help tide you over during the meeting.

We encourage all members to attend this important church event.

**Individuals are eligible to vote who have been members of the church for at least three months and have made a financial contribution in their name to the church between April 15, 2015 and April 15, 2016.*

People's Film Festival

Monday, May 16 at 7pm in the Common Room. Education, Inc. is told through the eyes of parent and filmmaker Brian Malone as he travels cross-country in search of the answers and sources behind the privatizing of American public education and what it means for his kids. With striking footage from school protests, raucous school board meetings and interviews with some of the most well known educators in the country, Malone zooms out to paint a clear picture of profit and politics that's sweeping across the nation, right under our noses.

The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

Thursday, May 19 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. This group meets on the third Thursday of each month. We are reading *Listening Hearts* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins. If you would like to join the Covenant Group, please contact Linda Parker at 402-319-0642 or lparkerlib@gmail.com.

Friday Fun Night

Friday, May 20 at 7pm in the Whitney Young Room. Join the young adults for some fun and games. No need to RSVP. Just show up for some festive Friday fun!

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, May 22 at 11:30am in Common Room. Calling all people aged 18-35! We have a once-a-month young adult discussion group aimed for people within this age range. We'll be covering any topic that we think is relevant to who we are and our lives.

Omaha Polyamory Discussion Group

Monday, May 23 at 7pm in the Whitney Young Room. We will meet every fourth Monday from 7pm-9pm. We invite any in the Omaha and surrounding areas 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 poly-amorous individuals and families. If you have any questions, please contact Susan at iamdosh@msn.com.

Exploring Humanistic Perspectives in Literature: I Call That Mind Free

Tuesday, May 24 at 7pm in the Common Room. Reading sources for this program include, among others, William Ellery Channing, Edwin Muir, Carl Sandburg, Emily Bronte, T.S. Eliot, Ralph Waldo Emerson, L.P. Jacks, Arthur Eddington, Rudyard Kipling, and Hagar the Horrible. Set in an atmosphere that attempts to combine elements of a coffee hour, a French literary salon, and something like a reader's theater, our programs seek to bring together Unitarian humanists, secular humanists, and others inspired by literature. We would love to have you join us!

More events on the next page...

Church Events and Activities Continued...

Omaha Gives!

24-hour Donation Challenge

May 25 — all day online!

See pages 10-11 for information.

Personal Finance Class

Classes Thursday at 7pm-8:30pm in the Common Room: May 26, June 2 and June 16. Facilitator: Clyde Kramer.

Do the smart stuff to avoid debt and money blunders. Simple financial worksheets will be used that will help you find out where your money goes each month and how to handle your checkbook. Learn about good money habits and saving money each month for retirement and emergencies. To register for the class, email the office: admin@firstuomaha.org.

Confronting Racism Discussion

Saturday, May 28 in the Common Room. Program will begin at 10:30am. Direct talk about racism is rare even though it is essential to creating a just community. Please join us. Lunch will be provided. We will ask for participants to bring dessert.

Recurring Events

Women's Religious Studies Group

This group meets every Thursday, except for the 3rd week of the month, at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. We discuss a wide variety of books that deepen our understanding of religious beliefs. We are reading *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief* by Lawrence Wright. For more information, contact Donna at neffd@cox.net.

Dungeons and Dragons Group Meeting

Meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in the Whitney Young Room after the second service. In the summer we will meet at 11:30am. All D&D role players are invited. If you have questions, contact Roman at rmnoriegal@cox.net, 402-769-4260.

Bridge Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the Common Room after the second service. If you've played before, come for some entertainment and time at the game table. Novices welcome too. Contact Scott at scott.kemper@gmail.com.

June Events

Teams Meeting (Previously called the Ministry Team Meeting)

Saturday, June 4 at 2pm in the Common Room. All team leaders and church volunteers are invited to this meeting. We discuss upcoming projects and plans for our church. Need more info? Contact the Ministry Team Council (MTC) at mtc@firstuomaha.org. See page 12 for details about MTC and Teams Meetings.

Flower Communion

Join us for this annual traditional on Sunday, June 5 at 10:30am. Mark your calendars!

UU&You Introductory Class next offered on Sunday, June 5

Unitarian Universalism and You class is taking May off, but will return in the popular summertime after service format on June 5. The

class will convene right after the 10:30am service. A light lunch will be served. The class lasts about an hour and 30 minutes. Visitors, newcomers, and the just curious are cordially invited. Child care is available by prior arrangement. RSVP (recommended) or questions can be addressed to

uuclass@firstuomaha.org or call Jaime Alexander 402-657-9386.

Pride Parade in June

Pride 2016 is right around the corner! We are looking for several enthusiastic individuals, couples and families to work on organizing our efforts. Second Unitarian would like to participate with us this year, so we can double our strength! Please email or call me if you are interested in being a part of the planning committee. We need your help to make it happen. Contact Lori Schaaf at lhefeli@gmail.com or (402) 800-8528.

Thank you!! We are looking forward to another strong year of support!

General Assembly 2016

June 22-26, Columbus, OH

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Registration is now open. Please go to: <http://www.uua.org/ga> for more information.

Climate Change Denial Topic of May Holland Lecture

Wednesday, May 11, 7:30pm at Holland Performing Arts Center

Science historian Naomi Oreskes will present “The American Denial of Climate Warming” Wednesday, May 11 at the Holland Performing Arts Center. Oreskes views scientific doubt as a strategy to confuse the public and in turn influence policy. She claims climate change is part of the larger practice of scientific denialism. Climate-change deniers widely criticize her work, which puts her at the middle of the controversy. Her book, *Merchants of Doubt, How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming*, co-authored with Erik Conway, found parallels between the climate change debate and earlier public discourse surrounding tobacco, the ozone hole and acid rain. The book was later made into a documentary film. Her research, essays, opinion pieces and books examine the earth and environmental sciences with a particular interest in understanding scientific consensus and dissent. She earned her Ph.D at Stanford University and is a professor of the History of Science and affiliated professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University.

To see why she thinks we ought to trust science, watch her TED talk at http://www.ted.com/talks/naomi_oreskes_why_we_should_believe_in_science.

FREE tickets for this reserved seating event are available at Ticket Omaha online <https://www.ticketomaha.com> or by calling 402-345-0606. Please join us for this event. The highly regarded Holland Lecture Series is now in its 11th year of presenting internationally recognized thought-provoking speakers. To help you introduce friends and neighbors to the series, each caller may request up to six free tickets for the lecture.

Parking Garage Info for First Unitarian

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 closer to the building. Here's the drill: Use any entrance to get in. Punch the button and take the ticket. Use only one exit to get out—on Farnam St. (north-side, middle level.) Insert your ticket into the machine before you exit the garage. 3 hours are free. If you're at church more than 3 hours, run your ticket through the machine that is downstairs in the Common Room for free parking or pay \$1/hour. Thank you for your help! Note: Please do NOT move the machine. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the church office at admin@firstuuomaha.org.

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Rowdy Sunday happened in the Common Room on Sunday, April 24. This celebration of church volunteers featured music by the Early Morning Risers, a piñata, cake, a gift to all volunteers, remarks by Rev. Frank, and it was hosted by our Ministry Team Council.

Thank you to ALL volunteers!

(Photo by Kathi Oliver)

What's in a Name Tag?

By Carrie Helmberger, Membership Coordinator

Have you ever wondered, "Why do we wear these name tags and why are there so many different versions of them?" Let me shed a little light on these burning questions for you.

- We wear nametags, because let's be honest, a lot of times we see people week after week and we don't always remember their names. A nametag helps take away a little of the pressure, making it easier to do that whole face-with-name recognition thing.
- Black plastic nametags (with pin backs)-- belong to our members who have been a part of the church the longest.
- Blue metallic nametags (with magnetic backs)--belong to our long-term members who just wanted a pretty blue name tag, to our more recent members, those who have just joined, or those of us who have lost our original name tag and needed a replacement*
- Visitors who fill out the yellow information sheet are greeted at their second visit with a white, paper nametag because members want to get to know them and make them feel welcomed. We want them to feel as if they belong, because they do!
- After a visitor has been with us for a while (8 or more visits), they will see that their plain white nametag now has a pretty blue stripe. This indicates that they are further interested in what our church has to offer. The blue stripe mirrors the blue cup at coffee hour, indicating the visitor feels safe enough at First Unitarian to stick around. It also means the visitors have been attending service long enough that their faces will be familiar to our members.

*By the way members, can fill out a nametag request form, and with a \$12 fee you too can have a blue magnetic nametag of your own! Please contact the office at admin@firstuomaha.org today.

OMAHA GIVES!

a 24-hour charitable challenge

AND SO CAN YOU!!!

Omaha Gives is a 24-hour charitable challenge to benefit metro-area nonprofits. For the first time, First Unitarian Church of Omaha will be participating. YOU can participate in this give-together with a minimum gift of only \$10, midnight to midnight on MAY 25TH. Visit www.omahagives24.org. See next page for details!



“WHAT? You shop AMAZON and don’t support First Unitarian?”

Visit www.smile.amazon.com , update **CHARITY** information to
FIRST UNITARIAN OF OMAHA.

Support First Unitarian Church with EVERY purchase you make!!
Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to
First Unitarian Church.



OMAHA GIVES!

powered by the Omaha Community Foundation



WHAT IS IT?

Omaha Gives! is a one-day online fundraising event organized by the Omaha Community Foundation and held on May 25 to raise support for nonprofits in Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie Counties. It is a community-wide event to show off the area's spirit of giving, raise awareness about local nonprofits, and celebrate the collective effort it takes to make this city great.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



NONPROFITS WIN

Nonprofits win bonus dollars for drumming up the most support. Hourly drawings and prizes only sweeten the give.



GIVE TWO WAYS

Schedule your gifts ahead of time or make donations throughout the day. Have more fun - give both ways!



GROW MORE GOOD

Last year, more than 20,000 people raised \$8.8 million for 704 local nonprofits in just one day!

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- Give to your favorite nonprofit – the minimum donation is only \$10.
- Partner with local nonprofits to help them win big on May 25.
- Provide **CHALLENGE FUNDS** for your favorite nonprofit.
- Schedule a donation starting April 1st or donate during the event on May 25.
- Attend area Omaha Gives! events hosted by nonprofits.
- Be loud and proud to show the community's generous spirit — especially on social media with #OmahaGives!



Ministry Team Council...What is It Again?

The Ministry Team Council is the small group of people, including Rev. Frank and Catharine Dixon, our Church Administrator, that provides administrative and team support for the functioning of our church. This year that Council has been Nellie Chenoweth, Diane Withem and Jackie Anderegg. We meet once a month and make many decisions around events in the church, coordination with the Board, problem-solving in many different areas of the church, and we provide support for the individual teams that make up our volunteer service. It is an important and major part of how well this church functions. The members include the President-Elect each year, and one member elected by the Board and one member elected by the Teams. The two elected members rotate their membership every three years.

We have changed the name of the Ministry Team which is the group of team people and team leaders that meet every two months. The name of that group will now be Teams Meeting. The newsletter for the Teams and the Ministry Team Council (MTC) will be changed from *Voluntary Servitude* to *The Candle*. The name of the Ministry Team Council will stay the same.

This year among many other things, the MTC outlined procedures and forms for use of our building, use of our church resources and event planning to organize the many activities we have at our church, including film groups, discussion groups, concerts, classes, etc. We established a calendar of events the MTC organizes including our Team Fair in the fall, the Lori Emison Clair Forum which we did, our new Rowdy Sunday in April which is our celebration of our volunteers, and all of our Teams Meetings. We routinely set the Share the Plate recipients for the year before January.

We put articles in *The Flame* outlining the functions and purposes of the MTC and put up a board in the Common Room outlining our purpose and function and our council members. We have made decisions about improvements to our space, safety issues, streaming of our services, leadership of our teams, creation of new teams, such as the new Communications Team and various projects, such as the Neighborhood Ministry Project. We have worked with some advertising projects with Second Unitarian Church and some with other publications and projects. We have included our meeting notes in the Board minutes every month, so that you can get a detailed summary of what we do.

All of our members are welcome to our meetings.

Jackie Anderegg, President-Elect

Our Church Leadership Forum Featuring Keynote Presentation by Cy Wakeman!

First Unitarian Church Board is having a Leadership Forum on Saturday, August 6 at Joslyn Museum thanks to Jack and Nancy Round. All members who are or have been or want to be leaders or who are simply interested in good ideas for us are invited! We are extremely fortunate to have Cy Wakeman give a presentation. She is a nationally known author and thought provoking speaker on leadership. She has been featured on the TODAY Show, in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and a host of other publications. Her New York Times bestselling book is Reality-Based Rules of the Workplace. She has been named one of the "Top 100 Leadership Experts to Follow" on twitter. She and her husband have been coming to our church, they really enjoy First Unitarian, and she is donating her time with us. This is an extraordinary gift.

She will do 90-minute presentation, we will serve you lunch at Joslyn, discuss her ideas, and then break into presentations by church members in the afternoon using a Ted Talk format with 20-minute presentations and discussion following each presentation. Please volunteer to share what you know about leadership in our church or any other topic you think might be important to us, and contact janderegg@cox.net to get on the agenda. This should be fun and interesting! Do mark your calendars.

Jackie Anderegg, President-Elect

Why Do We Have Pink Attendance Sheets?

You have probably seen the note in the order of worship announcements that says: 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. These pink sheets were first introduced as a way to track the attendance at each of the services.

First Unitarian changed from one Sunday service to two in 2009. We take attendance so we know how many friends, members and visitors are here on Sundays. Attendance helps us determine how many orders of worships to print. Plus, if we notice that someone is missing for a few weeks, we can reach out and make sure that person is okay. The office and its volunteers appreciate that folks have been signing in on the pink sheets. Thank you!

Hope in Action

Our church believes in community, and that is what Hope in Action, a sub-team of the Caring Team, is all about. Any one of us might need assistance, and we want to make it easier for you to ask for support and easier for you to offer support when others are in need.

WHO IS SERVED?

Church members, friends, regular attendees and their spouses are eligible for assistance from Hope in Action.

WHO CAN HELP?

Everyone! Hope in Action is an opportunity for everyone in our church community to support each other by sharing knowledge, skills and resources.

Hope in Action will use church communications, including the enews, to let our church community know when help is needed to respond to a request for support. And we will report back to the church community about how we were able to respond. All communication will be done in a manner that maintains the degree of confidentiality requested by the person seeking assistance.

WHAT SUPPORT CAN BE EXPECTED?

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 ups and downs of life. Our response will vary depending on the

type of support that is needed in our church community and what resources we have available.

Although Hope in Action is not able to respond to emergencies, short-term financial assistance may be available for lodging, food, clothing, medication, transportation and utilities. Financial disbursements are not made directly to the person making the request for assistance.

HOW TO ASK FOR SUPPORT

Requests for assistance must be made directly by the person needing help. Hope in Action does not respond to any anonymous or third-party requests for assistance.

Here are the ways you can ask for support from Hope in Action. You may send an email to hopeinaction@firstuuomaha.org or use the Hope in Action link on the church website. You may call the church office and press ext. 105 to leave a telephone message for Hope in Action. Or, you may simply complete a Caring Card located in the church pews and place it in the box in the church foyer.

WHO DECIDES WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE OFFERED?

Hope in Action will use a team approach, so at least three members of Hope in Action must participate in determining the nature of the response.

Community Meals & Y.E.S.

Every Saturday churches in our area join together to cook a meal, serve their neighbors and bring a sense of community to our neighborhood.

As our neighborhood undergoes changes, the number of people we serve has dwindled and we have been looking for additional ways to serve the neighborhood.

At the suggestion of church member, Kim Callaghan, who has worked with the Youth Emergency Services, located at 2602 Harney, Community Meals leaders Diane Withem and Louise Jeffrey discussed at the last Ministry Team meeting our church helping Y.E.S.

Y.E.S. serves homeless—not runaways. Y.E.S. verifies that there are no reports out for the kids. The youth are aged 12-21. There are approximately 300 homeless kids in Omaha on any given night. Up to 40% of those kids identify somewhere in the LGBT community. Monday-Friday of each week, the Street Outreach Center feeds 50-75 kids. This is done without a kitchen, because all meals are donated. We've decided to support this organization with a monthly meal. Unlike Community Meals where the meal is prepared and served at

one location (First Baptist Church), the Y.E.S. meal is prepared elsewhere and then delivered to the Outreach Center. There is no need for servers. We can prepare this meal in our own church kitchen and then deliver the meal to Y.E.S. In the future, we may have church members cook in their own home kitchens. This setup (of using our own kitchens or the church kitchen) allows for more flexibility. With lower numbers at Community Meals and frequent donations of food to those meals, it is well within our budget to help out. Now what we need is your help! All we need are people willing to prepare food and deliver the monthly meal to Y.E.S. See below for more details.

Our Next Y.E.S. Meal

Thursday, May 12 at 9am in the kitchen

Thank you to everyone who helped us make our April meal a success! Kim Callaghan is heading up this volunteer effort and she needs four helpers for this next prep. This month we are serving breakfast for dinner. If you are able to donate fruit (like bananas, oranges and apples), it is more than welcome! We also need paper plates, plastic eating utensils, napkins. Kim requests donations of feminine products and deodorant—it would be very helpful! Want to volunteer? Want to donate? Contact Kim: kjcallaghan@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Change for Change

Each week generous people put change in the collection plate. This change goes to the Sunday School kids who decide what to do with the money. In the past they have helped Community Meals and International Bridges for Justice. The kids are now donating this change to the Neighborhood Ministry Team, which purchases bus tickets and food cards and gives out blessings bags to people who come to the church door from our area. Your change makes a difference! Thank you for your generosity!

Share the Plate this month:

PFLAG

Each month one-half of the loose currency collected in the offering plate is donated to a cause that advances important principles of Unitarianism.

In the month of May we share the plate with Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the United States' largest organization for parents, families, friends, and allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ).

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.pflag-omaha.org/>.

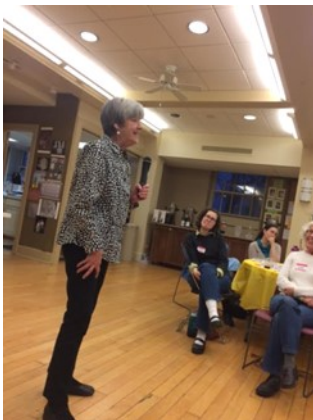


Women's Alliance— Looking Back

In March, the Women's Alliance group welcomed Doris Moore as our guest speaker. Doris is the founder and CEO of the non-profit behavioral healthcare organization Center for Holistic Development. Thank you to Doris for teaching us about the non-profit and how we can help.



In April, we welcomed Rhonda Stansberry, a master gardener and retired *Omaha World Herald* reporter. She informed the group of the steps to becoming a master gardener and how to grow a butterfly garden. Her presentation was very informative and we appreciate the visit.



We reached our highest attendance in April as well: 41 ladies RSVPd and came to dinner to enjoy the program. Thank you to those who joined us.

For information about the May meeting, please see page 4.

Who the Heck is Sarah Joslyn and Why Does She Have a Society?

Sarah Joslyn, a member of this church for 47 years, signed the membership book in 1893. She was a trustee and she and her husband George were strong financial supporters at the time of the 1918 dedication of our building. The Sarah Joslyn Society was created in her memory in 2004 to recognize and honor those members of First Unitarian Church who have made a commitment to leave a bequest to the church.

How can you do the same? Include First Unitarian in your will. If you already have a will, add a codicil. Or make the church a beneficiary on a life insurance policy. You can give a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or even stock. Only you will know the details. You don't have to part with your money right now. This is about

looking forward, about investing in the future of this church as Sarah Joslyn did.

"We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. We drink from wells we did not dig."

What have you received from First Unitarian? What do you love about it? Why not ensure that future generations can find a place of religious freedom as you have. Will you join the other 70 members of the Sarah Joslyn Society who have decided to provide security to our church by investing in its future? After you do, you will receive an invitation to our annual luncheon in October where we will welcome new members and reaffirm our thanks to old members.

For more information, contact Dixie Lemon at 402-393-2882 or dixielemon2@cox.net.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator Training For All Levels

June 10-12, 2016

Lawrence, KS

Join us for a great weekend learning to be an OWL facilitator. Levels available:

Elementary (grades K-1 and grades 4-5)

Secondary (grades 7-9 and 10-12)

Young Adult/Adult

Cost: \$225 if registered before May 1. \$275 after May 1. Registration deadline is May 27. Cost includes instruction and all meals.

More information available at:
uufl.net/our-whole-lives-owl.

Spielbound Parents:

Please remind your kids that they can get ONE free, small drink at Spielbound each Sunday. We don't have a budget for second drinks or snacks, but everyone is welcome to their first drink free. Thanks.

A Note from Jan, Director of Religious Education

I'm returning to work on a limited basis. Can't wait to see everyone at church on Sunday. Thank you to all the marvelous volunteers who stepped up and handled by responsibilities so well. It's good to be back!

Overview of Sunday School and Activities

Birth-Kindergarten — 9:15am-12:30pm Nursery open. Adult signs child in/out.

Kindergarten-Grade 5 — 9:15am-10:30am Community Time. Middle classroom RE wing. Optional, adult-supervised play. Sign-in/out sheet, make contact with supervising adult(s) at drop-off.

*10:30-11:15 am. Class Time. Formal curriculum and teachers. K-2nd grade meets north classroom (Jan's office). 3rd-5th meets middle classroom of RE wing.

11:15 am-12:30 pm. Community Time. Middle classroom RE wing. Optional, adult-supervised play. Sign-in/out sheet, make contact with supervising adult(s) at drop-off.

Grades 6-12 — 9:00-10:30 am. Attend Church or Community Time at Spielbound. Adult-supervised board games at Spielbound (1 block from church). Parent responsible for drop-off/pick-up and having contact info on file.

*10:30-11:15 am. Class Time at Spielbound. Game choice and discussion with teachers. Youth at church walk over with Ryan Cook after first service, meeting at west RE door. Otherwise, parent responsible for drop-off.

11:15am-12:30pm. Attend Church or Community Time at Spielbound. Adult-supervised board games at Spielbound. Parent responsible for drop-off/pick-up and having contact info on file.

* denotes class time

A Capital Idea

By Dave Richardson

We have recently completed another successful pledge drive. Like all churches we are reliant on the generosity of our members and the prudence of our leaders to pay the bills. Some churches are more imperative in their requests for pledges. Their ministers do the annual “Sermon on the Amount.” Our church is generally less coercive in fundraising. We tend to rely more on careful stewardship of our funds.

However, like many churches we have faced periods of fiscal crisis. As far back as 1898 the church leaders found themselves short of funds to the extent we were unable to pay the salary of our esteemed minister, Newton Mann. Rev. Mann generously agreed to a plan whereby he would not receive a salary for a period of a year and would then be repaid in a series of installments. In 1913 the church was forced to sell its church building because of heavy debts. The legend of how the tenacity of the Women’s Alliance combined with the talents of a young member and financial wizard named Bernard Capen the church was saved and within five years we were able to build our current beloved building.

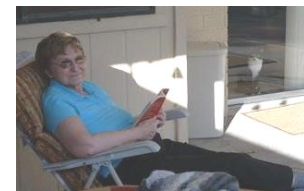
In looking through Annual Reports over the years, we note the Financial Report portion often begins with how we were able to avert a dire financial crisis for another year. Fortunately, these pecuniary perils have been avoided through congregational generosity and fiscal austerity. The formation of our Capital Trust Fund is perhaps the best example of this policy of sound fiscal management.

The Capital Trust Fund was begun in 1981 and revised in 1987. Minister Emeritus Ron Knapp, recalls that several sizable bequests and other gifts had been received and there was sentiment on the part of some board members to spend these windfalls as soon as they were received to pay for normal church operations and new projects. Others felt that a more pragmatic approach would be to start a trust fund with these gifts and other surpluses, maintaining the principal and using only the profits from

investments to augment church revenue. The Trust Fund advocates won the day.

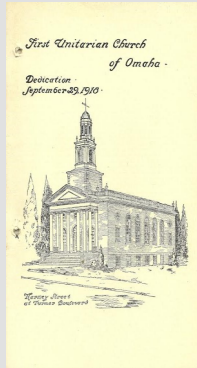
A formal legal document was drawn up and approved. It calls for three duly elected trustees who would serve three-year terms. Their task is to “assume the protection of the trust from use for ordinary operating expenses of the church.” The key proviso was that the principal shall be maintained and only the profits from the investments would be used for church expenditures. There is a clause that would allow use of the principal, but only if the Trustees approve and a congregational vote is taken. Bill Ross notes that in the early years the Trustees invested mostly in “growth stocks” which maintained the principal adequately but generally did little to increase income. Recently, the Trustees have invested in mortgage funds and high yield bond funds. This shift in strategy has generated more income for church use. Bill also recalls how he learned how strong was the feeling of keeping the Trust Fund inviolate, when as a new member of the finance committee he suggested at an Annual Meeting, that in order to solve a particular financial problem we could perhaps use the principal of the Trust Fund. Bill said he was chastised by some to the extent he thought they “were going to smite me on the spot.”

The current Trust Fund is doing well and serves the purpose for which it was created. Long ago Unitarianism broke with its Puritan ancestors and their dogmatic practices. Fortunately, we did retain our forebears’ prudent and austere sense of managing finances.



Trustees:

Tim Duggan (with his wife), Evelyn Whitehill and Steve Hutchinson (with his family) pictured above (from church directory).



Celebrating Our Heritage
Two important church
anniversaries are
approaching:

- 150th anniversary of the
signing of the Articles of
Incorporation of The First
Unitarian Church of
Omaha -
August 22, 1869
- 100th anniversary of the
dedication of the church
building -
September 29, 1918

Ways to Help: Garden Team

Volunteers needed this spring to help spread donated mulch on the church grounds. Work in 1-3 hour increments, shorter time commitment when more people show up. Once the grounds are covered, you're off the hook for the season. Thanks!

Contact Sharon Conlon, Garden Team Leader
sharonconlon@msn.com, 402-332-7086

Ways to Help: Friday Office Volunteers

Have you ever wondered, if even for a moment, who replaces the pink attendance sheets on the clipboards in the pews, or changes the batteries in the hearing assist devices? Those are just two of the tasks that most people don't give a thought to, unless it's not done.

The Friday Office Volunteer Team are looking for a few good people! If you can spare an hour or so on a Friday afternoon, or an hour on a Wednesday morning once a month, WE NEED YOU!

Please contact Kim Callaghan at
kjcallaghan@hotmail.com or by phone at 402-292-5018.

Outside Opportunity

Tour for Hope: Bike to Fight Suicide

(American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)



American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention

Sunday, May 22

Miller's Landing, 151 Freedom Park, Omaha NE 68102

\$50 registration fee (includes light breakfast, snacks, mechanical support, full rest stops, roving SAG support, and lunch).

Registration-8am to 10am. Bike routes have staggered starts from 8:30am to 10am. Fundraising is optional.

- Raise \$200 receive a Tour for the Hope Commemorative shirt
- Raise \$500 to receive a custom Tour for Hope jersey

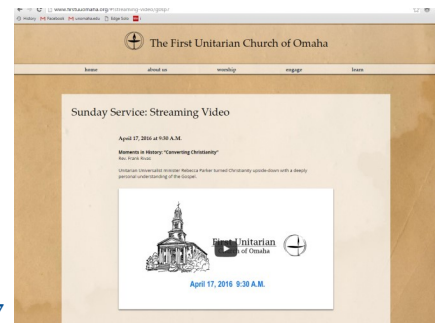
Additional information concerning the 2016 Tour for Hope can be found on afsp.donordrive.com/event/OmahaTourforHope2016

Event contact information: Jenny Duffy. Phone: 402-250-3961. Email: afspbikerideomaha@aol.com.

Streaming Services

Can't make it to church? Missed a Sunday and really wanted to hear the sermon? Sermon videos are now online for you to view. Just go to www.firstuuomaha.org. Hover your mouse over the word "worship" and go down to "streaming video." There you will find last Sunday's service.

The direct link is: <http://www.firstuuomaha.org/#!/streaming-video/g0sp7>



Special thanks to Troy Jensen and others who have been involved with this project to make this feature a reality for our church.

We are looking for volunteers who are able to help us record and stream Sunday services during the summer. Could that be you? If so, please contact Troy Jensen at troy@evermake.com.

2015 Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-thon Recap

By Alan Vovolka

Brush Up Nebraska has volunteers paint houses of low-income elderly and disabled homeowners. First Unitarian's team divided up to help paint and prep three houses on August 15th.

Volunteers were:

Curtis Bryant
Dean Christensen
Barb Henney
Erin Higgins
Vickie Hawks Love
Lois Norris
Catherine Plumlee
Danielle Reichert
Tom and Caitlin Seguin
Alan Vovolka
Robin Vovolka
Ben Wallace

Thank you to all our volunteers!

In 2016 we plan to partner with Countryside Community Church and take responsibility for one house from start to finish. For more information about how you can get involved in this project, please contact Alan at alan.v@cox.net.

Retirees Group at Second Unitarian Church Invites First U Members and Friends

Please join us Tuesday, May 10 at 1pm to learn about Volunteers Assisting Seniors. The mission of VAS is "to simplify the lives of seniors by enabling them to make informed decisions regarding their benefits." The presentation will describe services offered by the organization and describe how to access their services. This presentation will take place at Second Unitarian Church (3012 South 119th Street, Omaha, NE).

Retirees Group meets monthly for socialization, fun, and learning. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Contact Second Unitarian Church at info@2uomaha.org.

Minister

Frank Rivas

minister@firstuuomaha.org**Director of Religious Education**

Jan Wilson

dre@firstuuomaha.org**Church Administrator**

Catharine Dixon

admin@firstuuomaha.org**Organist**

Pat Will

Choir Director

Bob McMeen

Early Service Pianist

Stan Harper

Choir Accompanist

Keith Hart

Minister Emeritus

Ronald Knapp

Nursery Coordinator

Jenny Hastings

Custodian

Bobby Medrano

Nominating Committee

Mary Thomas, Kim Callaghan,

Molly Dewell, Joe Schaaf,

Nadine Keith, Dave Olson

THE FLAME

Deadlines are the 15th of each month. Word limit: 200. Send your submissions to

admin@firstuuomaha.org.Editor/Designer: Cat Dixon

Proofers: Lana Hammel,
Scott Kemper, Lois Norris,

Debbie Hunsberger

Flame Mailing Team:

Debbie Hunsberger,
Linda Hruska, Kim Callaghan,
Lisa Calhoun, Shelton Hendricks

Meet Our Leaders

Board Members

Jack Round (President), Jackie Anderegg (President-Elect), Sheri Conner, Cy Leise (Secretary), Kabin Thomas, Dean Christensen, Jack Heidel, Linda Parker

board@firstuuomaha.org**Trustees of the Capital Trust**

Tim Duggan (2016), Steve Hutchinson (2017), Evelyn Whitehill (2018)

Committee on Ministry

Skip Ciulla, Sandy Host, Katrina Schmidt, Marie Sedlacek

Ministry Team Council

Rev. Frank Rivas, Jackie Anderegg, Diane Withem, Nellie Chenoweth

mtc@firstuuomaha.org**Ministry Teams and Team Leaders**

Archives - Dave Richardson

Caring - Louise Jeffrey

Chalice Guild - Kay Lynn Goldner

Community Meals - Diane Withem

Fellowship - Judith Wright, Nadine Keith & Nellie Chenoweth

Finance - Walt Jesteadt

Fundraising - Donna Neff & Kathi Oliver

Hope in Action - Kim Dunovan

Hospitality Teams - Carolyn McNamara

House and Grounds - Pierce Carpenter

Membership - Beth Conover

Neighborhood Ministry - Royal Carleton

Office - Carolyn McNamara

Omaha Together One Community - Laurie Gift

Partner Church - Janet West

Religious Education - Sheri Conner

Women's Alliance - Nellie Chenoweth

Worship Arts Team - Megan Gustafson

Young Adult Group - Kathi Oliver

YRUU - Ben Wallace & Shawne Coonfare

Upcoming Church Events Beyond May

Teams Meeting — Saturday, June 4 (see page 12)**UU & You Class — Sunday, June 5 (see page 6)****Flower Communion — Sunday, June 5 (see page 6)****Summer UU Camp — June 6-10**

Church Events

Speed Meeting

Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 in the Common Room

See page 4 for information.

Mystic Sojourn CUUPS

Sunday, May 1. Meet at 5:30pm

See page 4 for details.

Book Club

Monday, May 2 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge

See page 4 for details.

People's Film Festival

Monday, May 2 at 7pm in the Common Room.

See page 4 for information.

CommUUnity Night

Friday, May 6 at 5:30pm

See page 4 for details.

Sunday Social Gathering

Sunday, May 8 at 7pm

See page 4 for information.

Women's Alliance

Monday, May 9 at 6:30pm in the Common Room

See page 4 for information.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 10 at 7pm in the Common Room

Holland Lecture

Wednesday, May 11 at the Holland Performing Arts Center

See page 7 for information.

Y.E.S. Meal Prep

Thursday, May 12 at 9am in the kitchen

See page 15 for details.

The Tolerant Atheist Group

Thursday, May 12 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 4 for information.

POPS: Parents of Preschoolers

Friday, May 13 at 5:30pm in the Common Room

See page 4 for information.

All Church Clean-Up

Saturday, May 14, 8am to noon

See page 5 for details.

Flame Deadline

Submit your newsletter articles to admin@firstuuomaha.org by May 15 at noon.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15 at noon

See page 8 for information.

Private Recital

Sunday, May 15 at 4pm in the Sanctuary

People's Film Festival

Monday, May 16 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 5 for information.

The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

Thursday, May 19 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge

See page 5.

Friday Fun Night

Friday, May 20 at 7pm in the Common Room.

See page 5 for information.

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, May 22 at 11:30am in the Whitney Young Room

See page 5 for details.

Polyamory Discussion Group

Monday, May 23 at 7pm in the Whitney Young Room

See page 5 for details.

Exploring Humanist Perspectives

Tuesday, May 24 at 7pm in the Common Room.

See page 5 for details.

Personal Finance Class

Thursday, May 26 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 6 for more information.

Confronting Racism Meeting

Saturday, May 28 at 10:30am in the Common Room

See page 6 for more information.

Private Wedding

Saturday, May 28 at 2pm

Private Wedding

Sunday, May 29 at 4pm

Recurring...

Meditation

Every Tuesday at 8am in the sanctuary. See page 3 for information.

Choir

Rehearses every Wednesday at 7pm in the Sanctuary. We will rehearse on Tuesday, May 10 due to the Holland Lecture happening on May 11.

YRUU

Meets every Wednesday at 7pm in the Common Room.

Lunch with the Minister

Thursdays at noon in the Common Room. See page 3.

Women's Religious Studies Group

Meets most Thursdays at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 6 for information.

Dungeons & Dragons Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. See page 6.

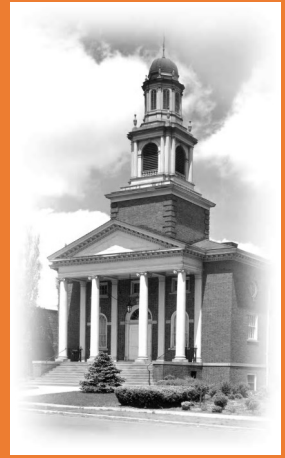
Bridge Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. See page 6.



OMAHA GIVES!

powered by the Omaha Community Foundation



Donate on May 25th and help First Unitarian Church!
www.omahagives24.org

First Unitarian Church of Omaha
3114 Harney St.
Omaha, NE 68131