

March 2016

# The Flame



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

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Sunday Services  
this Month

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Special meetings

The Annual Chili Cook Off held on January 23—Photo by Bob Hess



## Sunday Services — 9:30am and 11:15am

### March 6 — “Beloved Community”

**Rev. Frank Rivas**

An exploration of both our strengths and our directions for growth. This Sunday is our Stewardship Celebration Sunday. Join us in the Common Room for cake at 10:30am.

### March 13 — “A Question of Life or Death”

**Rev. Frank Rivas**

A religious response to abolishing the death penalty and to the petition to reinstate it.

Guest Musician at 11:15am service:

Jill Anderson

### March 20 — “Breaking the Glass”

**Rev. Frank Rivas**

How do we make sense of some of the losses we experience in life? A contemporary theodicy. At the 11:15am service, we will honor Pat Allender, who passed away last month. Pat was a church member and the former choir accompanist.

### March 27 — “Season of Rebirth”

Mystic Sojourn CUUPs presents a journey of personal transformation through the exploration of world myth. Our Children’s Spring Carnival is this Sunday from 9:30am-12:30pm on the East Lawn. The Toddler Easter Egg Hunt is from 9:30 to 10:30.

Kindergarteners and up have their egg hunt from 11:30-12:30. Please join us for carnival games and fun!

### Spring Forward!

It’s that time! Time to set your clocks forward one hour. Do this before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12, so you arrive to church on time.

# Rev. Elations

## Monthly Column from our Minister, Rev. Frank Rivas

I felt proud when in front of our church was a Black Lives Matter banner—an unambiguous public statement about where we stood on racism. After a few weeks (and again in the last couple of weeks as we're contemplating rehangng the banner), I heard concerns about the banner. These were not concerns that I could easily dismiss, but rather concerns from people who have supported and continue to support civil rights.

Neither Unitarians nor Universalists are used to other people telling them what they should believe or how it should be stated—not on issues of social justice any more than on issues of theology, not from the Unitarian Universalist Association any more than the minister. Nor should we get used to having other people tell us what to believe. Instead, we are called to the difficult process of gathering to speak, to listen, and to hammer out a shared statement that conveys our stance on the continuing racism in this nation.

I have a powerful faith that great things happen when good people who disagree come together to speak respectfully and to listen openly. We are each transformed, as we are each transformed by the spiritual odysseys and the justice pulpits we hear on Sunday morning. No one knows the result of authentic engagement, but put people of vision together and something great will emerge.

The work of transformation—transforming ourselves as well as society—is not easy, but it's the work I want to be doing.

How wonderful that pledge month does not come at a time of stasis, but at a time of active engagement. Nearly a century ago, the dean of the Universalist seminary at St. Lawrence University wrote, "Universalists are often asked to tell where they stand. The only true answer . . . is that we do not stand at all, we move." The words could have been written this week.

I am grateful to be doing this work with each of you.

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."

## Meditation

*Tuesdays at 8am in the sanctuary.* Join Rev. Frank to practice mindfulness and meditation at this gathering. All are welcome.

## Church Events

### The Palestine and Israel Conflict Study Group

*Remaining Tuesdays, March 1 and 8: Whitney Young Room from 7-9 pm.*  
Facilitators: Sharon Conlon, Nadine Keith, and Elaine Wells.  
The UU for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) has a study guide titled *The 7 UU Principles and Palestine-Israel Adult RE Study*. We will use this template to learn about and discuss the Israel and Palestine conflict from a uniquely UU perspective and the role of our faith tradition in bringing about peace with justice. You can read more about the UU groundwork and Study Guide at <http://uujme.org/home/Take-Action/Learn-and-Reflect>.  
Contact Sharon Conlon at [sharonconlon@msn.com](mailto:sharonconlon@msn.com) for further information or to RSVP.

### CommUUnity Night

*Friday, March 4 at 5:30pm in the Common Room.* If you haven't participated before, CommUUnity Nights are a fun, laid-back all-church event. We gather together for a potluck of side items (the main dish will be provided by RE) and we don't worry about who is bringing what; we may get KFC chicken nuggets, sushi, guacamole, but we'll have fun. We eat together as a group and then just chill. We will give the teens the Merritt Lounge as a fortress of solitude against the chaos of family life. 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!

### Mystic Sojourn CUUPS

*Sunday, March 6 at 6pm in the Common Room.* We will cover the basics of Learning Ritual Craft. We will discuss the meaning behind the different parts of a ritual and work on examples. This will be done in order to prepare participants for a more active role in the group. The meeting starts with happy hour from 6-7 followed by an hour-long workshop and ends with a potluck gathering. All are welcome!

### UU&YOU Class

*Wednesday, March 9 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge.* Visitors, newcomers, and the just curious are invited to this introduction to Unitarian Universalism and First Unitarian Church of Omaha, along with an opportunity to share our religious journeys in a theologically diverse "safe" place. Conversation will also include some of our history and things going on here at our church. RSVPs go to [uuclass@firstuomaha.org](mailto:uuclass@firstuomaha.org) or call Jaime at 402-657-9386. If you need childcare, please let us know by the Friday before the meeting.

### The Tolerant Atheist Group

*Thursday, March 10 at 7pm in the Common Room.* Doug Wagner, Ph.D., historian and psychotherapist, will address a variety of topics with the intent of facilitating discussion. Perhaps Doug will share why he is not a Unitarian or why he thinks Atheism is stuck in the 1960s. Doors will open at 6pm for those interested in "Bring Your Own Dinner" socializing and conversation.

### POPS (Parents of Preschoolers)

*Friday, March 11 at 5:30pm in the Common Room.* Join us for fun and potluck plus pizza. We will have childcare available while we discuss the many ways we can provide happy fellowship for parents and grandparents. We'll share ideas for activities to create a loving, supportive community where families can flourish in an extended UU family. Questions? Jan: [dre@firstuomaha.org](mailto:dre@firstuomaha.org).

### Sunday Social Gathering (Second Sunday of every month)

*March 13 at 7pm in the Common Room.* MOVIE: "Philadelphia," a 1993 American drama film and one of the first mainstream Hollywood films to acknowledge HIV/AIDS, homosexuality, and homophobia. Everyone is welcome! Light snacks provided. Bring some to share if you like. If you have any questions, please call Royal at 402-999-1379.

### Women's Alliance

*Monday, March 14 at 6:30pm in the Common Room.* Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend this gathering. Socializing and beverages start at 6:30pm with dinner following at 7pm. The program will be Doris Moore, founder and CEO of the non-profit behavioral healthcare organization Center for Holistic Development. You can find out more information about this organization at [www.chdomaha.org](http://www.chdomaha.org). We ask for \$15 which goes to the cost of dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, the Partner Church scholarship, and various activities at First Unitarian. If this will be your first time attending a WA get-together,

## Church Events Continued...

please be our guest. Our dinner selection will be corned beef and cabbage from Eddie's Catering. The vegetarian meal will be decided at a later date. Please RSVP by March 10. RSVP by email: [kathryn.oliver@outlook.com](mailto:kathryn.oliver@outlook.com) or call: 402-214-2718 (leave a message).

### People's Film Festival

*Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm in the Common Room.* Pay 2 Play follows filmmaker John Ennis' quest to find a way out from under the Pay 2 Play System, where politicians reward their donors with even larger sums from the public treasury through contracts, tax cuts, and deregulation. For more details, please go here: <http://www.pay2play.tv/>. All are welcome to this showing.

**St. Patrick's Day Concert: Ayre-heart.** *Thursday, March 17 at 7pm in the Common Room.* See page 7 for the flyer.

### The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

*Thursday, March 17 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge.* The group meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Merritt Lounge at 1pm. We have begun a new book of readings, *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](mailto:lparkerlib@gmail.com).

### Archives Party

*Thursday, March 17, 9am to 4pm (with a break for lunch with the minister) in the Common Room.* The church has important anniversaries coming up: September 2018 marks the

100th anniversary of the dedication of the church building and August 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Articles of Incorporation. The Archives Team has immediate tasks to do and YOU can help! Our job includes: getting the archives organized, putting together an archives-themed display in the display case in the south foyer of the Common Room as well as determining ideas for celebrating our heritage. Join us to become better acquainted with church history and the team. If you have questions please email Dave: [richardson.david@westside66.net](mailto:richardson.david@westside66.net).

### Friday Fun Night

*Friday, March 18 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!

### Confronting Racism Discussion

*Saturday, March 19 at 10:30am in the Common Room.* We will gather for informal conversation and coffee. The program will begin at 11am. Direct talk about racism is rare even though it is essential to creating a just community. Please join us. Lunch will be provided.

### Exploring Humanistic

#### Perspectives in Literature:

#### Sarah Teasdale—House of Dreams

*Tuesday, March 22 at 7pm in the Common Room.* Academy of American Poets: "Teasdale's work had always been characterized by its simplicity and clarity, her use of classical forms, and her passionate and romantic subject matter." NOTE FROM RON KNAPP: I have long had three of Teasdale's poems

in my repertoire of favorite poems. But as I have gotten deeper into her poetry it appears to me that she lived in a "House of Dreams" – That is the title of one of her poems – rather than a house of reality. In this program we will explore many of her poems and, just perhaps, in the process, explore something about her "psyche."

Set in an atmosphere that attempts to combine elements of a coffee house, a French literary salon (this is a bit pretentious,) and something like a readers theater, our programs seek to bring together Unitarian humanists, secular humanists, and others who are interested in literature. We would love to have you join us!

We have two important meetings scheduled in the month of March.

The first is on Monday, March 7 at 7pm.

The second is on Monday, March 21 at 7pm.

Please see page 10 for information about both of these meetings.

# Let's Make this Church Even Better!

**Saturday  
March 26, 2016  
11am-4pm  
Common Room**

This is our second all church forum with Lori Emison Clair who is a Congregational Life Consultant. She is a national expert on growth and creativity in Unitarian Churches. She inspired our Hospitality Teams, our Listening Circles and the hiring of our popular Membership Coordinator last year. We have invited Second Church to join us. We would love to see all of you here again for an interesting, creative experience.

**Bring your lunch, your ideas and your questions!**

Contact Jackie Anderegg at [janderegg@cox.net](mailto:janderegg@cox.net) if you have questions or ideas for her agenda.

**Hosted by the Ministry Team Council**

## Church Events and Activities Continued...

### Community Meals

*Saturday, March 26 at First Baptist Church (421 Park Ave.).*

We will be serving fried chicken, baked beans, salads, desserts at First Baptist church at 10am. The chicken and salads will be from the deli, but we need baked beans and deserts. See Diane Withem or email [dianewithem@gmail.com](mailto:dianewithem@gmail.com), or call 402.331.8358 to sign up.

### Children's Spring Carnival

*Sunday, March 27 from 9:30am to 12:30pm on the East Lawn.* The

Toddler Easter Egg Hunt is from 9:30 to 10:30. Kindergarteners and up have their egg hunt from 11:30-12:30. There will be age-appropriate games for all the kids. Please join us for carnival games and fun!

### Young Adult Discussion Group

*Sunday, March 27 at 11am in the Common Room.* Calling all people aged 18-35! We are starting a once-a-month young adult discussion group aimed for people within this age range. We'll be covering pretty much any topic that we think is relevant to who we are and where we're going in life.

### Book Club

*Monday, March 28 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge.* We will discuss *Altered Genes, Twisted Truth*, by Steven M. Druker at this meeting. For information, email Dave at [richardson.david@westside66.net](mailto:richardson.david@westside66.net).

### 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. Now is a good time to join if you are interested, as we are beginning a new book: *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief* by Lawrence Wright. New members welcome. For more information, contact Donna at [neffd@cox.net](mailto: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.* All D&D role players are invited. If you have questions, contact Roman at [rmnoriega1@cox.net](mailto:rmnoriega1@cox.net), 402-769-4260.

### Bridge Group

*Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the Whitney Young Room after the second service.* If you've played before, come for some entertainment and time at the game table. Novices welcome. Contact Scott at [scott.kemper@gmail.com](mailto:scott.kemper@gmail.com).

### April Events

#### Stewardship Fiesta: All Church Event

*Saturday, April 2 at 6pm in the Common Room.* See page 8 for the flyer.

#### Rowdy Sunday : A Celebration of Our Church Volunteers

*Sunday, April 24 at 10:30am coffee hour.* Celebrate our valuable and talented volunteers with cake and fun! This event is hosted by our Ministry Team Council.

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT: AYREHEART

Thursday, March 17 at 7:00pm  
First Unitarian Church, Common Room  
3114 Harney St., Omaha 68131

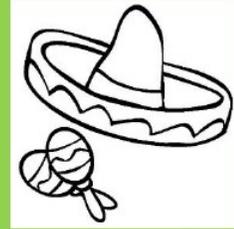


Spend your St. Patrick's Day listening to Ayreheart's eclectic mix with elements of Folk, Celtic, and Bluegrass. This band was formed to feature the lute (the most popular instrument of the Renaissance) in a completely new context—mixing with vocals, electric bass, drums and hand percussion, guitar, violin, mandolin and komuz. A special drink "Go Luck Yourself" along with Irish Coffee will be served. Suggested donation: \$10/person. Free childcare will be provided.

Band website: <http://www.ayreheart.com>



# Fiesta!



Join us for an  
All Church Stewardship Celebration

Saturday, April 2nd  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Taco bar with beef, chicken, and vegetarian/vegan selections,  
and chips and salsa. Cash bar including beer and Margaritas.

Pizza for the kids!

Childcare will be provided but please  
make reservations by contacting Jan at  
[dre@firstuomaha.org](mailto:dre@firstuomaha.org) or 402-345-3039 ext. 103

Hosted by First Unitarian Church  
and the 2016-2017 Stewardship Team



## Stewardship Campaign — 2016/2017

*by the Stewardship Team*

The 2016-2017 Stewardship Campaign begins on Sunday, March 6! Be sure to join us for cake and coffee during the first coffee hour as we kick off this year's campaign. The fund drive will end with an All Church Stewardship Celebration on Saturday, April 2nd. This year we will be celebrating with a **Fiesta!** in the Common Room, which will feature a beef and chicken taco bar, vegetarian/vegan selections, dessert, and, of course, margaritas! (See previous page in this newsletter.) Your invitation to the celebration will be included in the pledge packet which you will receive soon. Once again, we hope to place emphasis on fun and fellowship and have it result in your financial support of our church.

Over the past two campaigns, we were delighted to raise the targeted amount proposed for our budget. Both years, the team was fearful that the increase would be far too difficult to meet. Both years, YOU came through! The excitement and enthusiasm seems to be growing! Rev. Frank refers to us as a church with big dreams — we dream of a bigger congregation, increased educational opportunities, a bigger commitment to working on the problems our community and our world face, more involvement on all levels, and even more activities than we currently enjoy. All of these things cost money and time and a commitment from each of us.

Our budget committee has told us that our expenses for the year beginning May 1, 2016 will increase by 1.3%. In order to increase our programs, maintain our beautiful building, and support outside programs of interest to our congregation, please consider increasing your pledge this year so we can all continue to enjoy what this wonderful church adds to each of our lives.

We need to dream a future we want for this church. Pledging, like volunteering and involvement, is part of what it means to be a member. With your help, this will be another record pledge year and a banner year for our church. We hope everyone will participate in celebrating AND pledging.

### Finance Matters

*By Walt Jesteadt, Treasurer*

We have benefited this past year from some large bequests, but our goal is to use those funds for special projects and to pay the day-to-day costs of operating the church from our current income. We estimate that it will cost about \$27,000 per month to pay our outstanding staff and support our programs during the church budget year that begins on May 1st. That is an increase of less than 2% over the current budget. This next year has a new financial challenge, however, as we will no longer receive \$8,820 in parking lot rental from a local business, which has been part of the budget for many years. We will have plenty of weekday parking available, but will need a 6% increase in the pledge total to make up for the lost parking revenue and provide a 2% increase in the total budget. That means pledges totaling \$260,000, up from this year's total of \$245,000. Please consider a pledge increase of 6% or more and please pledge during the March stewardship campaign without waiting for the phone call.

Many people keep up with their pledges throughout the year by arranging automatic monthly payments. We can help you with that using a service called Vanco. Just fill out a simple one-time form, available from the church office, authorizing us to make the arrangements. For those already doing this, we have two problems during stewardship campaigns. First, it requires some action on your part to increase your pledge. Second, we need to know if you plan to continue the current automatic payments for the year to come so that we can enter that as a pledge. Both problems can be solved by submitting a new pledge form. If we do not receive a form, we will be in touch to make sure that we are clear on your plans.

## Church Meetings in March

### Special Meeting Event to Discuss the Black Lives Matter Movement

Monday, March 7 at 7:00pm

Location: Common Room

At the February 9, 2016, Board Meeting a motion was approved to call for a special meeting of First Unitarian Church of Omaha to consider whether to make a formal stand in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Racial justice is important in our community and is a significant ethical concern of Unitarian Universalists. All of us agree on equal rights for all people even as we disagree about whether our current banner, which states that Black Lives Matter, is an ideal statement of our position.

Please join the Board for the special meeting forum on March 7th to learn about the reasons to support the Black Lives Matter movement and to decide whether to formally move forward to hold a vote of the full congregation. Our church policy is that if a majority at a special meeting vote in favor of taking a public stand on an issue, there then will be a mailed ballot so the full membership has an opportunity to vote. If two-thirds of the votes from the mailing plebiscite are in favor, the Board is authorized to take appropriate actions, such as displaying a banner, to make this known to the public.

Another opportunity, before the Special Meeting, will be a "Board Talk Back" during the coffee hours on February 28th.

### Special Meeting Event to Discuss the Death Penalty Issue

Monday, March 21 at 7:00pm

Location: Common Room

At the February 9, 2016, Board Meeting a motion was approved to call for a special meeting of First Unitarian Church of Omaha to consider whether to make a formal stand on the issue of the death penalty in Nebraska. The intent of this action by the Board is to provide a forum for open discussion of this long-standing moral issue. Although a decision on whether to allow the death penalty as a legal option has been a politically sensitive topic in Nebraska, it long has been and remains a central ethical concern of Unitarian Universalists.

Please join the Board for the special meeting forum on March 21st to learn about the issue and to decide whether to formally move forward to hold a vote of the full congregation. Our church policy is that if a majority at a special meeting vote in favor of taking a public stand on an issue, there then will be a mailed ballot so the full membership has an opportunity to vote. If two-thirds of the votes from the mailing plebiscite are in favor, the Board will take appropriate actions to make this known to the public.

Another opportunity, before the Special Meeting, will be a "Board Talk Back" during the coffee hours on March 13th.

**Please attend these two meetings. We need your voice in both discussions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the board at [board@firstuomaha.org](mailto:board@firstuomaha.org) and the minister at [minister@firstuomaha.org](mailto:minister@firstuomaha.org).**

## Public Positions on Social Justice Issues...My Two Cents

This is an opinion piece based on my membership and how I value this church. I am not representing the Ministry Team Council or the Board in this article.

Our history with social justice issues in the 13 years I have been a member seems to reflect our having a lot of heart for various social problems, but we have tended to assign the action to a few members, who were burdened with most of the effort. Remember Shawna Foster?

The tide seems to be shifting here to become more active as a community. To quote Rev. Frank:

"I see the work of justice as central to the work of the church. To do the work with any authenticity, we have to be willing to talk to and listen to one another. If we can't do it here, where can people have these discussions?"

It is the job of our Board to decide whether public positions on social issues fairly represent our congregation and whether our whole community should have a voice in those positions. Once the Board is aware that a position may not be supported fully, we need to go to our by-laws to insure that we fairly represent our diverse community and that we are free to debate and then vote as a community. The section of our by-laws that cover these situations is:

**"Whenever it shall appear to the Board of Trustees, under such Policies/Guidelines as it may from time to time adopt, that the congregation is being called upon to take a stand on any issue of public interest, the Board of Trustees shall call a special meeting of the Church. If a majority of the members present at said special meeting shall so vote, a plebiscite by mail on said issue shall be taken of the members entitled to vote, with provision made to ensure secrecy in the plebiscite. On such issues of public interest, if at least two-thirds or more of the ballots returned shall be in favor of the proposition stated in said issue, then the consensus of the congregation shall be deemed to be in favor thereof and shall be published as the stand of the Church on such issue, with reference to the actual number of votes pro and con and abstentions."**

At the February Board meeting, our Board agreed that certain topics, including our support for the Black Lives Matter movement, warranted a discussion/debate and a congregational vote. Sometimes our Board may err on the side of assuming controversy where there is in fact very little difference or assuming congregational approval when there needs to be honest debate. The leadership here as I see it needs to depend on the members to let them know what is important from all sides of an important public position and it seems you have informed us. Good for all of you, whether there is agreement or not.

There is a clear procedure in place to deal with hot topics. See the opposite page about our special meetings happening this month. Our challenge is to keep it respectful, and from what I am hearing from my State of the Church Conversations (see page 16 in this issue), we have been dealing with each other directly and respectfully over our differences. May this apply to this extremely sensitive issue. Our respect for each other seems to be at stake here.

Jackie Anderegg, Member of First Unitarian

## **Stewardship** *by Jack Round, church president*

### Thank you

There are many members and friends of the church who have given in many ways for many years and words cannot adequately communicate enough thanks for what they have given and continue to give. I know we will strive to continue to be a church worthy of this tremendous generosity.

### Annual Stewardship Campaign

There are many necessary conditions that need to be present for a church to thrive, and financial resources are a significant one. We have been fortunate that we have members and friends and others who respond with generosity to the annual stewardship campaign. Our budget, like most if not all budgets, increases a little bit every year for cost of living adjustments and it is nice when pledges are able to reflect this reality.

### Special Place

First Unitarian is a special place. Two anniversaries are coming up: (1) the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church and (2) the 100th anniversary of the current building. This longevity suggests a special, important, ongoing need that our church fills in our local community.

### Our Church Community

The members and friends and staff and others that make up our church community are a special group. There are so many unique talents and experiences and perspectives. Our church provides a place for this community to happen.

### Supporting and Nurturing

We strive to be a place that supports and nurtures our individual spiritual and life paths. One of the parts of church services I like best is when we get to hear the spiritual odysseys of members. I'm glad our church exists to support and nurture these paths.

### Staff and Focus

As you know, a large percentage of the annual budget is for payroll-related expenses. We are fortunate to have talented ministerial and other staff who can wake up every morning and think about and focus on how to make First Unitarian as good as it can be.

### Part of a Larger Community

Part of the annual budget supports the MidAmerica Region and the UUA. Through dues, we help support the larger, holistic Unitarian presence in the United States.

### Thank you for all you do

In addition to your time, energy, and passion, your generous financial pledge is greatly appreciated.

## R.E. News with Jan

What a thrill to have so many new families participating in Religious Education! I have placed pictures of all of our wonderful kids in the classrooms. We have an especially active nursery with record numbers of babies and toddlers in attendance. Our nursery manager, Jenny Hastings, has been greatly appreciated by our families. Together with Gale Callaghan and Jenny's sons, Ian and Parker, evening and special events have been supported with quality childcare.

We have an email address, [childcare@firstuomaha.org](mailto:childcare@firstuomaha.org), where parents can communicate directly with Jenny about childcare needs for events other than Sunday morning. With sufficient lead time, Jenny can address these needs. Team leaders should note this new procedure for providing childcare coverage for meetings and events.

We had our first POPS Night in February. This was an event to provide a get together for the parents of preschoolers. We had pizza and a great time and look forward to meeting again on March 11. Of course anyone is welcome, whether you have preschoolers or not. We joked that POP stands for Parents Ordering Pizza.

CommUUnity Night is March 4th. Everyone is welcome to both events—the difference is that childcare will be provided by Jenny and helpers for POP.

We are still taking reservations for Camp Art-a-Lot. Let Jan know if your child is planning to attend. Many are already signed up. Thanks to all the volunteers who have already committed to facilitating the camp. We couldn't do it without you.

Warm regards,  
Jan Wilson, DRE.

### RE Council Meetings

February meeting: Sunday, Feb. 28 at 11:30am

March meeting: Sunday, March 20 at 11:30am.

Both meetings are held in Jan's office.

All parents welcome!

## 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

## 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@firstuomaha.org](mailto:hopeinaction@firstuomaha.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.

On February 6th about 20 members of our church prepared and served home made ham and bean soup, corn-bread, veggies and dessert for 85 people at Community Meals.

Saturday, March 26 will be our next Community Meals date. We will be serving fried chicken, baked beans, salads, desserts at First Baptist church at 10am. The chicken and salads will be from the deli, but we will be asking for baked beans and deserts. See Diane Withem or email [dianewithem@gmail.com](mailto:dianewithem@gmail.com), or call 402.331.8358 to sign up.

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. We will have trial runs in March and April.

## Our Next Y.E.S. Lunch

**Tuesday, March 8.** We need two volunteers to come to church that day at 9am. The chicken is already cooked. Just help Kim prep the meal in the church kitchen that day. Can you help? Contact Kim at [kjcallaghan@hotmail.com](mailto:kjcallaghan@hotmail.com). Can't come to help prep food? We need desserts! Please email Kim to arrange to leave your dessert at church so she and her team can deliver it to Y.E.S. that afternoon. Thanks for all you do!!!

## 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:

### OTOC

Each month one-half of the loose currency collected in the offering plate is donated to a cause that advances important principles of Unitarianism. This month we share the plate for OTOC (Omaha Together One Community). See below for more information.

## OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) Spring Fundraiser

### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

**April 9, 6-9:30pm at the Omaha Hot Shops**

What is OTOC? It is a local Omaha organization which "teaches people to become effective leaders, [while] exploring their legitimate interests, doing solid research, engaging in tough, but always respectful public discourse, holding elected officials accountable and creating positive change through collective action." OTOC is currently working on important issues, such as Medicaid expansion in Nebraska, mental health issues, vacant properties in North Omaha, and advocating on climate change.

We invite you to attend the OTOC's Annual Fundraiser for an evening with fellow Omahans who want to make Omaha a better place to live. There will be a silent auction, cash bar, appetizers, and live music. Enjoy the Hot Shops. Learn about OTOC. Renew friendships. Meet like-minded, fun people. Tickets are \$20. For more information, contact Janet West: [jmasonwest77@yahoo.com](mailto:jmasonwest77@yahoo.com).

OTOC is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions to OTOC are not tax deductible. OTOC does not endorse candidates.

*Submitted by Laurie Gift, Mark Loscuttoff, Alan Vovolka, and Janet West*

## State of Our Church Conversations

By Jackie Anderegg, President-Elect

I have started random conversations with some of you about the state of our church, and I hope to speak to all of you if I live that long. These are 10-minute conversations that generally cover the following issues:

- On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied are you in our church?
- What do you see as the positives?
- What do you think needs work?
- Do you believe we deal with conflict or differences directly and respectfully?
- Do you feel appreciated for what you do for our church?
- What do you think is important for our future?

Please feel free to approach me if you would like to have this conversation or e-mail or phone if you would like. This is very informal and very anonymous. If I don't approach you, it is because you look busy, or rushed, or I am on my way somewhere. When I reach all of you or hit a critical mass, I will give you a report! To reach Jackie: [janderegg@cox.net](mailto:janderegg@cox.net) or 402-397-7221.

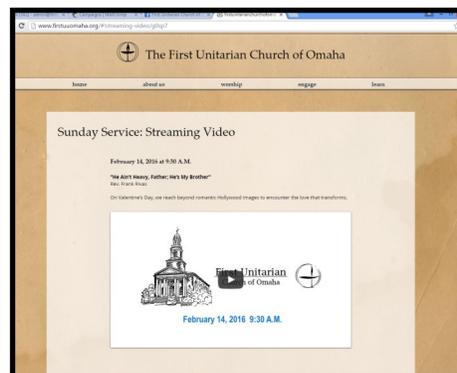
## Streaming Sunday Services

Can't make it to church? Missed a Sunday and really wanted to hear the sermon? We want to remind you that services are available online on our church website. These are online for you to view. Just go to [www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.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.firstuomaha.org/#!/streaming-video/g0sp7>.

You can watch the service live on Sunday or watch the recording of the service later.

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



## 2016 Preserve Our Building Fund Drive Report

Results from the January 2016 Preserve Our Building Fund Drive again reflect our congregation's continued commitment to this cause of having a fund for a future significant need of our sanctuary or building. By the second week in February, our contributions have totaled over \$6,100. The POB account balance is now over \$58,000! Although solicitation is limited to January, if you should desire, contributions may be made anytime. Once again you have been generous. A sincere "Thank you" from POB Drive co-chairs Louise Jeffrey and Jaime Alexander goes to all who contributed to the 2016 Preserve Our Building Fund Drive.

## Creating Change Conference

By Ben Wallace

Thanks to the support of the Women's Alliance and First Unitarian Church of Omaha, we were able to put together the rest of the needed funds to send a delegation of ten people to the Creating Change Conference in Chicago, IL the last week of January. Our delegation was made up of James Brewer, Jordan Brown, Tiana Conyers, Tierra Conyers, Billie Marie Grant, Sharmaine Lee, Brett Masterson, Dominique Morgan, Missy Ulrich, Evan Widhalm, and Ben Wallace. These individuals represented First Unitarian Church, Benson High School, QNYN, QPOC, and GLSEN Omaha.

The Creating Change Conference is one of the most prominent national conferences focused on the LGBTQ community and creating social change overall and is sponsored by The National LGBT Taskforce (<http://www.thetaskforce.org/>). The conference gave us a chance to connect with like-minded change agents from across the country and learn more about some of the amazing programs happening across the country focused on homelessness, incarceration, and confronting barriers to progress in many areas of our society.

One of the best connections that we made was with Interweave, which is a membership organization connected to the UUA that focuses on ending oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

I had the pleasure of meeting Maryka Bhattacharyya, the President of Interweave, and talking to her about the work Interweave is doing across the country. I look forward to helping our congregation learn more about Interweave and how we might look at starting an Interweave chapter. You can find out more about Interweave here: <http://interweavecontinental.ning.com/>.

Many of the sessions I attended were focused on supporting homeless and at-risk populations as well as some of the programs happening in Minneapolis, Chicago, and other cities. One thing that I realized was that many of the challenges we face in supporting our marginalized communities here in Omaha are the same challenges being faced in other cities, just on a different scale. There's a lot of opportunity for our congregation to be part of the solution towards combatting racism, homelessness, and other forms of discrimination, all of which affect members of our congregation and larger community.

All of these challenges are ones that we can work together to make a positive impact on locally; however, we must decide as a community that we are willing to deal with uncomfortable realities including our own privilege and how that privilege makes us less aware of the realities that less privileged individuals face in our same community.

I am appreciative for the chance to have attended the Creating Change Conference along with our small

delegation and look forward to further discussion of the opportunities our congregation has in Omaha to partner with other organizations to make a significant impact in our own neighborhood and surrounding community.

Thank you to the Women's Alliance and First Unitarian for making it possible for us to attend the Creating Change Conference. It was an awesome experience, and I look forward to the opportunity to attend again in the future.

## Taft's Two Visits—Part Two

By Dave Richardson

In part one of this two-part series we examined Taft's role in the buildup to WW I and his election as president of The American Unitarian Association. This part will focus on how his shift in opinion on America's role in the war affected the denomination as a whole as well as his subsequent visits to our church in 1917 and 1919. On September 25, 1917 at the annual convention of the AUA held in Montreal, there was a very contentious debate over the war. Mr. Taft presided over the convention and was a key participant in the heated debate over the church's position on the war. This dramatic controversy would affect the Unitarian denomination for a number of years.

At the aforementioned convention, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, a noted pacifist Unitarian minister, gave a report on the varying attitudes maintained by Unitarians towards the war America had entered four months earlier. He proposed that the church not take an official stance on the issue of the war. Holmes made his position clear saying:

*I am a pacifist, a non-resistant, I hate war, and I hate this war; and so long as I live, I will have nothing to do with this or any war. We must have a ministry of reconciliation that would create a 'gospel of peace.'*

Taft was enraged. He asked the parliamentarian to allow him to temporarily step down as presiding officer so he could address the proposal. Taft argued that it was necessary for Unitarians to show there was only one opinion among them. Doing otherwise he said, would not respond adequately to "the great issue that is being fought for, for which the blood of our dearest is being shed." Taft's counter resolution was as follows, "The opinion of this Unitarian conference is that this war must be carried to a successful issue to stamp out militarism in this

world." Taft's motion was carried by a vote of 236 in favor to 9 opposed.

In the patriotic fervor in support of the war the Board of the American Unitarian Association (AUA) voted to deny aid to congregations with ministers who did not support the war. As a result most of the Unitarian ministers who had taken pacifist positions in opposition to the war lost their pulpits. In protest, Holmes resigned his fellowship with the American Unitarian Association and convinced his congregation to leave the denomination and rename itself the Community Church of New York. It was not until 1936 that the AUA rescinded its expulsion of pacifist ministers. It wasn't until 1961 that Holmes himself agreed to reconciliation with the recently merged Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA now has an award and a fellowship in his name. Incidentally, one of the recipients of The John Haynes Holmes Fellowship was the late Rev. Richard Benner, former minister at First Unitarian of Omaha.

In returning to the time of Taft's visits to Omaha, we note that although in both speeches to our congregation he avoided direct reference to the Montreal controversy, his intent was made clear. In the cornerstone address in 1917, which came a mere three weeks after the Montreal convention he made it clear that this was a patriotic church made up of loyal Americans. There was little doubt of our church's support for the war. Among the items in the time capsule placed in the cornerstone was the "Honor Roll for 1917 of men in the Congregation who had enlisted in the Great War." The "Honor Roll" was accompanied by a pamphlet titled "How the War Came to America," issued by the National Committee on Public Information.

Taft's second visit to Omaha came six months after Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. On his return to Omaha on Memorial Day

(then commonly referred to as “Decoration Day”) May 31, 1919, Taft made an eloquent plea from our pulpit for support for Wilson’s League of Nations, a key component of The Treaty of Versailles. He observed that day, “Unitarians have a strong voice, a liberalizing force, which can be an inspiration to other churches,” he further noted, “the war showed us the cheapness of all that is material.” He further submitted that women may be the key and gave an additional plug for ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting Voting Rights for women.

President Wilson suffered a stroke on December 2, 1919, while on a whistle stop tour to gather support for the League. Because of his incapacitation, Taft and many prominent Unitarians, including the renowned Rev. Rowena Morse Mann, a member of First Unitarian and widow of Reverend Newton Mann, were relied upon heavily in the unfortunately unsuccessful campaign for ratification of the League of Nations..

“The war to end all wars” and its aftermath returned Mr. Taft to national prominence as well as playing an important role in our church history.

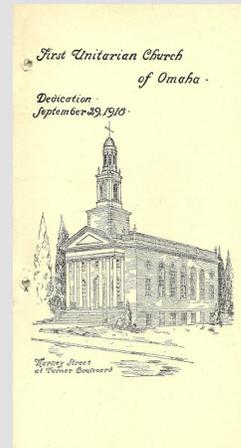


Photos of Taft and John Haynes Holmes.

## Interested in Archives?

Contact Dave Richardson at [richardson.david@westside66.net](mailto:richardson.david@westside66.net).

Or come to our next Archives Party happening on Thursday, March 17. See page 5 for more information.



### 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

## Climate Change Denial Topic of May Holland Lecture

— Save the date —

**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 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](http://www.ted.com/talks/naomi_oreskes_why_we_should_believe_in_science).

FREE tickets for this reserved seating event will be available Monday, April 11 at Ticket Omaha online <https://www.ticketomaha.com> or by calling 402-345-0606. Please put this lecture on your calendar and on the calendar of your friends! 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.

## Holland Lecture Follow-Up Event at First Unitarian Church

**Climate Change and Religious values: Facing the Future**

**Tuesday, May 17 from 7:00-8:30pm; Location: Sanctuary, First Unitarian Church**

On May 11, 2016, distinguished Holland lecturer Naomi Oreskes will present “Denial: The Easy Answer to Global Warming.” In order to continue the conversation and to encourage action, First Unitarian Church of Omaha will host a follow-up program hosted by Dr. Roger Bergman, director of Creighton University’s Justice and Peace Studies.

First Unitarian wants to open this conversation to increase understanding among people from all faith traditions about the need to address climate change with a change of heart. Pope Francis calls this “ecological conversion” in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’*; Unitarian Universalists aspire to live with respect for the interconnected web of life. The follow-up program will be focused on how we should respond ethically to what is known about climate change.

Please join us for this opportunity to share your concerns, questions, and insights about climate change, a global ethical concern critical to everyone’s future. Dr. Bergman will facilitate the conversation that emerges with the aim of discovering insights from diverse belief perspectives about this contemporary moral challenge.

## Chili Cook-Off 2016 *By Carolyn McNamara*

Every possible interpretation of western dress descended on First Unitarian on Saturday, January 23 for the annual Chili Cook-Off and a rootin' tootin' good time. Marshal Donna Neff got things started by explaining the rules of votin' for the best chili in both the vegetarian and meat categories. With 26 types of chili (and Jaime's stew) to choose from, there was something for everybody, but it was darn tough to decide which one was best. An assortment of cornbread rounded out the meal (Who knew there were so many recipes?) so there was no excuse for going hungry. After much tasting and testing, ballots were cast for the best chili in both the meat and vegetarian categories. Votes were also cast for best dressed cowgirl and cowboy.

Thanks to Collin Hatcher and Dave Rosser for providing music and for recruiting volunteers who provided toe-tappin' tunes. Those showin' their skills at the mike in addition to Collin and Dave included Jim Daniels, Genevieve and Anna Beth Lee-Regier, Kyle Knapp, Catherine Plumlee (with her lime green ukulele!) and Katrina Schmidt.

Cook-Off winners in the meat category were:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Lori Schaaf for her "Buffalo Chicken Chili"

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Beccy Hatcher's "Netflix Chili"

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Sarah Hamilton with "Moroccan Chili"

Best vegetarian chili awards went to:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Krissa Lee-Regier with "Indian Chowder Chili"

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Nancy Scott for her "Pumpkin Chili" with accompanying pumpkin cornbread

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Marie Sedlacek's "Vera Cruz Stew"



*Erin Stokes, costume contest winner.*

*Photo by Bob Hess.*

In the best dressed competition, young cowgirl Erin Stokes was the crowd favorite, while Bill Howard was named best dressed cowboy. All contestants earned fabulous awards! We were disappointed this year that no cow, horse or chicken costumes appeared.

Thanks go to the following:

Cook-Off Committee: Nellie Chenoweth (Chief Chili Wrangler), Nadine Keith and Judith Wright.

Set Up Volunteers: Denise Allain, Carol Cronin, Linda Hruska, Carolyn McNamara, Roger Nicolaisen and Daniele Reichert.

Host/Hostesses: Cuong Chi Hoang, Julie Nicolaisen, Ellen Shurson, Janet West

Cornbread Bakers: Denise Allain, Nellie Chenoweth, Sharon Conlon, Carol Cronin, Louise Jeffrey, Nadine Keith, Krissa Lee-Regier, Lois Norris, Mary Kay Peters, Anne Rivas, Nancy Scott, Janet West and Judith Wright

Cashiers: Walt Jesteadt and John Wagner

Publicity: Donna Neff

Photographer: Bob Hess

Bartenders: Louise Jeffrey, Bob Perrin, Ellen Shurson, Diane Withem and Judith Wright

Chili Wranglers: Denise Allain, Geoff and Nellie Chenoweth, Louise Jeffrey, Carolyn McNamara and Kathi Oliver

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who jumped in to help with the cleanup. You are very much appreciated. See a photo of the event on page 2.

**Minister**

Frank Rivas

[minister@firstuomaha.org](mailto:minister@firstuomaha.org)**Director of Religious Education**

Jan Wilson

[dre@firstuomaha.org](mailto:dre@firstuomaha.org)**Church Administrator**

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Carrie Helmberger

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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@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org).

**Editor/Designer:** Cat Dixon

**Proofers:** Lana Hammel,  
Scott Kemper, Lois Norris,  
Debbie Hunsberger

**Flame Mailing Team:**

Debbie Hunsberger,  
Linda Hruska, Howard Bolton,  
Kim Callaghan, Lisa Calhoun

# 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@firstuomaha.org](mailto:board@firstuomaha.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@firstuomaha.org](mailto:mtc@firstuomaha.org)**Ministry Teams and Team Leaders**

Archives - Dave Richardson

Caring - Katrina Schmidt

Chalice Guild - Kay Lynn Goldner

Community Meals - Diane Withem

Fellowship - Judith Wright, Nadine Keith &amp; Nellie Chenoweth

Finance - Walt Jesteadt

Fundraising - Donna Neff &amp; Kathi Oliver

Hope in Action - Kim Dunovan

Hospitality Teams - Kim Callaghan

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 &amp; Shawne Coonfare

**Upcoming Church Events Beyond March**

All Church Fiesta! — Saturday, April 2 (see page 8)

Rowdy Sunday — Sunday, April 24 (see page 6)

Holland Lecture — Wednesday, May 11 (see page 20)

Post Holland Lecture Event — Tuesday, May 17 (see page 20)

## Church Events

### The Palestine and Israel Conflict Study Group

Tuesdays: March 1 and March 8  
in the Whitney Young Room from 7-9.  
See page 4 for details.

### Private Wedding

Friday, March 4 at 3pm.

### CommUUnity Night

Friday, March 4 at 5:30pm  
See page 4. for details.

### Mystic Sojourn CUUPS

Sunday, March 6 at 6pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 4 for more details.

### Congregational Meeting: Black Lives Matter Discussion

Monday, March 7 at 7pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 10.

### Y.E.S. Meal Prep

Tuesday, March 8 at 9am  
See page 14 for details.

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm in the  
Common Room

### UU & You

Wednesday, March 9 at 7pm in the  
Merritt Lounge.  
See page 4 for more information.

### The Tolerant Atheist Group

Thursday, March 10 at 7pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 4 for information.

### POPS: Parents of Preschoolers

Friday, March 11 at 5:30pm  
See page 4 for information.

### Sunday Social Gathering

Sunday, March 13 at 7pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 4 for information.

### Women's Alliance

Monday, March 14 at 6:30pm  
See pages 4-5 for details.

### Flame Deadline

Submit your newsletter articles to  
[admin@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org) by  
March 15 at noon.

### People's Film Festival

Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 5 for information.

### Archives Party

Thursday, March 17, 9am-4pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 5 for information.

### The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

Thursday, March 17 at 1pm in the  
Merritt Lounge  
See page 5.

### St. Patrick's Day Concert

Thursday, March 17 at 7pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 7.

### Friday Fun Night

Friday, March 18 at 7pm in the  
Common Room.  
See page 5 for information.

### RE Council Meeting

Sunday, March 20 at 11:30am in Jan's  
office  
See page 13 for details.

### Congregational Meeting: Death Penalty Discussion

Monday, March 21 at 7pm in the  
Common Room  
See page 10.

### Exploring Humanist Perspectives

Tuesday, March 22 at 7pm in the  
Common Room.  
See page 5 for details.

### Community Meals

Saturday, March 26, offsite  
See page 6 for details.

### Lori Emison Clair Forum

Saturday, March 26 at 10am  
See page 6

### Children's Spring Carnival

Sunday, March 27 on East Lawn  
See page 6 for details.

### Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, March 27 at 11am in the  
Common Room  
See page 6 for details.

### Book Club

Monday, March 28 at 7pm in the  
Merritt Lounge.  
See page 6 for details.

### Recurring...

#### Meditation

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

#### Choir

Rehearses every Wednesday at 7pm in  
the Sanctuary.

#### 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 after the second service.  
See page 6.

#### Bridge Group

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

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