

August 2016

The Flame



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

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Service Format
Discussion

First and Second Unitarian Churches march together in the Pride Parade in June. Photo by William Hay.



Sunday Services — All are welcome

August 7 — One Service at 10:30am

“A Rebirth of Wonder: Religion, Science and Wonder”

Ronald Knapp, Minister Emeritus

On July 10th Ron Knapp gave the first sermon in a two-part series on religion and science titled “Mind By Truth Made Free: Religion, Science And Truth.” This second sermon is titled “Religion, Science and Wonder.”

August 14 — One Service at 10:30am

“Choices, Risks, Courage: A Spiritual Path”

Rev. Sarah Voss

A look at how we can make a difference in today’s world and in our overall spiritual well-being.

August 21 — One Service at 10:30am

“Five Takeaways from Pope Francis on the Environment”

Dr. Roger Bergman, of Creighton University, will elaborate on several key themes of “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” the Pope’s lengthy encyclical letter published to world-wide acclaim last year. His message will be shown to be both mystical and practical, personal and political.

August 28 — One Service at 10:30am

“Toward Wholeness”

Rev. Frank Rivas

How do we, as Americans, heal this divided nation? How do we, as individuals, heal our divided selves?

Rev. Elations

Monthly Column from our Minister, Rev. Frank Rivas

Bob McMeen resigned as our choir director. Bob had expressed some dismay that attendance at the second service had declined, and he had talked about the need to return to a single service. When he first resigned, Jackie Anderegg and I asked whether he would delay his retirement if the two of us lobbied for a single service. He agreed to consider this option, but finally decided that he had reached retirement age, this time for real. Bob served the church well for many years; this last year the choir, under his direction, truly excelled. An ideal time to retire. We should all be so wise.

Thank you, Bob, for the skill, the vision, the commitment, and the love you shared with us. And may your years without a baton also bring joy to your soul.

Bob's concern about attendance pushed the board to examine whether we should experiment with returning to a single service on Sunday morning. We carefully examined attendance for the last couple of years. We reviewed the work of the committee that initially suggested two services. We considered both leaving room for visitors with empty pews and showing the commitment and vitality of our congregation by filling the pews. We are examining all the information we can before suggesting an experiment for the fall.

As Americans continue to abandon religious orthodoxies, we will grow, but the timing is not entirely in our control. For now, it may be best to accept ourselves as we are. Ironically, it may be only by serving our current members and friends as well as we can that our numbers will nudge up. This is a remarkable congregation—remarkable in the quality of the music program, in the beautiful building we share, in the commitment and mutual respect of our members, in creative programs for children and youth, and in our vision of what we can add to the broader community. As we live into this reality, others will join us.

It is a blessing to be together, especially in this moment in our history.

Church Events

People's Film Festival

Monday, August 1 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will show the film, *The Pathology of Privilege: Racism, White Denial, and Inequality*. This is a short movie of less than an hour, but the ideas presented are critical and need to be addressed. This Tim Wise presentation comes from 2008, but is striking in its relevance to today's "Breaking News." Just one short quote from the movie: "White Americans are two times as likely to believe Elvis might be alive than we are to believe people of color when they tell us what they experience every day on a regular basis." The implications are enormous.

CommUnity Night

Friday, August 5 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. If you haven't participated before, CommUnity Night is a fun, laid-back all-church event. We gather for a potluck of side items (the main dish will be provided by R.E.) and we don't worry about who is bringing what and we have fun. We eat as a group and then chill. Kids are free to roam and play. The adults chill, talk, play games, and just enjoy each other's company. 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!

All Church Leadership Retreat

Saturday, August 6, offsite. See page 6 for information. A free lunch will be served, but we need your RSVP by July 30.

People's Film Festival

Monday, August 15 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will show *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA*. This film tells the stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. The film exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit—and thereby putting people in danger.

Y.E.S. Meal

Tuesday, August 16 at 10am in the kitchen. We'll serve hotdogs, a pasta/veggie salad, fruit and dessert. We're taking donations for school supplies: pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, anything that a teen might need for school. We need helpers! Please see page 9 for all the details.

The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

Thursday, August 18 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. We are reading *Listening Hearts* by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins. Evelyn Whitehill will be the facilitator for Chapter 9, Mental Wellness. If you would like to join the Covenant Group, please contact Harriet Major at 402-391-0248 or hmajor323@cox.com.

POPS (Parents of Preschoolers)

Friday, August 19 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. Are you a parent of a young child? Come to our group and meet others! Childcare and pizza is provided. Contact Jan at

dre@firstuuomaha.org for more details.

Adult Game Night—New Night!

Saturday, August 20 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. Join the young adults for some fun and games. No need to RSVP. Just show up for some fun!

UU&You Introductory Class next offered on Sunday, August 21

The Unitarian Universalism & You class will convene right after the 10:30am service in the Whitney Young Classroom. A light lunch will be served. The class lasts about an hour and 30 minutes. Visitors, newcomers, and the just curious are cordially invited. Childcare is available by prior arrangement. RSVP (recommended) or questions can be addressed to Jaime at uuclass@firstuuomaha.org.

Arts and Crafts Night

Sunday, August 21 at 7pm in the Common Room. Bring your current project and supplies and join us for some artistic fellowship! We will meet from 7-9 pm on the third Sunday of the month in the Common Room. Contact Kate Godfrey at coachkate@cox.net or (402) 880-1327 for details.

Church Events Continued...

Omaha Polyamory Discussion Group

Monday, August 22 at 7pm in the Common Room. We meet every fourth Monday from 7pm-9pm. We invite any in 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 polyamorous individuals and families. If you have any questions, please contact Susan at iamdosh@msn.com

Exploring Humanistic Perspectives in Literature:

Oh, the Things You Can Think: The Wacky World of Dr. Seuss

Tuesday, August 23 at 7pm in the Common Room. Set in an atmosphere that attempts to combine elements of a coffee house and a readers theater, we seek to bring together humanists and others interested in literature to listen to readings and to take part in the conversation. From Dr. Seuss: "Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope and that enables you to laugh at life's realities."

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, August 28 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.

Book Club

Monday, August 29 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. We will discuss books that we read over the summer. All are welcome! For more information, contact Dave at richardson.david@westside66.net.

Women's Religious Studies Group

This group meets every Thursday, except for the 3rd week of the month, at 1 pm in the Merritt Lounge. This group explores a wide range of religious beliefs through reading, study, and discussion. New members welcome. We are reading a book about Native American spirituality by Joseph Bruchac, "Our Stories Remember: American History, Culture, and Values Through Story Telling." For more information, please contact Neva Cozine at hansen.cozine@gmail.com.

Dungeons and Dragons Group Meeting

Meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in the Whitney Young Room at 11:30am. All D&D role players are invited. If you have questions, contact Roman at rmnoriega1@cox.net, 402-769-4260.

Bridge Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the Common Room after the 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.

Meditation

Tuesdays at 8am in the sanctuary. Please join us for meditation and mindfulness practice. This informal group meets every Tuesday and

everyone is welcome to attend. Come to relax, breathe, or just enjoy some peace and quiet in our beautiful sanctuary.

Save the Date

Welcome Home Service & Ice Cream Social

Our Welcome Home Service is scheduled for Sunday, September 11. This intergenerational service celebrates all of us coming back to the church after summer. We will have one service at 10:30am followed by an ice cream social given by our Fellowship Team in the Common Room.



All Church Leadership Retreat

Saturday, August 6

Featuring Keynote Presentation by Cy Wakeman!

Where: Witherspoon Hall, Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge Street

When: Saturday, August 6, 10:30am-4pm

Who: Everyone is invited!

Box lunches will be provided at no cost, but the deadline for lunch reservations is Saturday, July 30. Email admin@firstuomaha.org today to reserve your spot. Please let us know if you would like the meat or veggie meal option when you RSVP.

Agenda for All Member Leadership Retreat on Saturday, August 6th

[Cy Wakeman](#), a nationally known expert on leadership will deliver a keynote from 10:30am to noon. Box Lunches will be served and we will discuss what she presented as it applies to our church. Jackie Anderegg, current Board President, will briefly present preliminary results of her State of the Church Conversations. The intent for the afternoon presentations will be to create ideas and church action around three central themes:

Deepening our Connections with Respect for our Differences. Rene' Harper, leader of the BLM Movement in our church, will present followed by discussion.

Expanding our Presence in Our Communities. Jack Round, past President and church leader, will present followed by discussion.

Growing Our Membership. Jan Wilson, our Director of Religious Education, will present followed by discussion. Our Membership Team will present followed by discussion.

General discussion about the benefits and disadvantages of continuing two services versus experimentally returning to one service as a trial. Closing with general remarks from the participants and closing remarks by Rev. Frank.

Please join us! RSVP today at admin@firstuomaha.org.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES



Classes for Visitors

First Steps

Beginning in September

Dates: 9/25, 10/23, 11/20, 12/18 — Session begins at 11am

Gather by the visitors' table. We will meet in the Whitney Young Classroom.

You are invited to join us as we gather together to get acquainted with the basics of Unitarian Universalism and our vibrant community. There are many ways to connect with the church, and we look forward to discussing the unique opportunities offered by First Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Pathways

Beginning in October

Dates to be announced.

This class explores who we are and what we believe and provides opportunities for members of our congregation to share with newcomers what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.

Pathways gives newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. Whether you are new to the church, or have been coming for a while, this is a great opportunity to learn more about this community.

Questions? Want to RSVP? Contact Carrie at coordinator@firstuomaha.org.

Ways to Help and Get Involved!

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.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>

We are looking for volunteers who are able to help us record and stream the Sunday service. Could that be you? If so, please contact Troy Jensen at troy@evermake.com. No experience required!

First Unitarian will participate in the Brush Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon on Saturday, August 20th

Brush Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon is a community based volunteer program that paints homes of qualified low-income elderly and low-income permanently disabled homeowners in the Omaha Metropolitan Area, so that homeowners may maintain their property, increase energy efficiency and beautify the community. The project began in 1989. All homes are painted on the 3rd Saturday of August each year. It is in the spirit of an old fashioned "Barn Raising" that people come together to help others and brighten lives and homes within our community.

First Unitarian is partnering with Countryside Community Church (part of the Tri-Faith Initiative), and our assigned house is 4339 N. 38th St., owned by a woman in her late 70's. It is 1½ stories tall so we will need step ladders for much of the work, but also people to paint the lower portions including the foundation, and someone to deliver the donuts and juice. Children 16 and under will need a signed permission slip and a designated adult on-site to keep an eye on them.

We need more volunteers! If you are unavailable on August 20th, there will be a "prep" day the Friday or Saturday before. Please contact Alan Vovolka, (402) 344-3988, to sign up or to lend us ladders, brushes, scrapers, or a wet/dry shop vac.

Pictured on the right: the home we will work on.



Our Next Y.E.S. Meal

Tuesday, August 16 at 10am in the kitchen.

We'll serve hotdogs on buns, a pasta/veggie salad, fruit and dessert. We're taking donations for school supplies: pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, anything that a teen might need for school. Personal care products are still needed. Most of the youth are trying to finish school. In fact, that is one of the rules for the extended stay portion of the YES shelter—to either hold a job or attend school. Side note: Y.E.S. just celebrated 12 of their kids graduating high school and four had registered for college! I will need four people to assist—two helpers from 10am to 12pm, another two from 12pm to 2pm. If you would like to stay the entire time, that's welcome also! Please let me know if you can help in any form. Contact Kim at kjcallaghan@hotmail.com.

Sarah Joslyn Society

By Deb Duggan

It is with some trepidation that I assume the leadership of the Sarah Joslyn Society from our founder and fearless leader, Dixie Lemon. Acting on her own excellent idea, Dixie established the Society in 2004 to encourage, enable and thank those who wish to leave a bequest to the church. Her gentle prods, witty articles and pithy sayings ("You'll never miss the money") have helped the membership grow from 32 original members to more than 75 who have named the church in their estate planning. Membership in this Society requires no on-going effort on your part. There are no dues, no tasks, no committees nor office holders. After your first commitment you're a member for life, and you get to attend a delicious luncheon, usually in mid-October, and bask in the warmth that comes from having done something important to help ensure the financial security of the church. Come join us! Contact Deb at [402 553 5477](tel:4025535477) for more information.

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 is 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.

Hospitality Teams and YOU

Each Sunday greeters, ambassadors, coffeemakers, and friendly faces help greet church members and visitors. If you sign up for a team, you only work six Sundays a year and you make new friends in the process. Interested? Contact Hospitality Team Coordinator Carolyn at caylamc@cox.net today to find the right team for you!

One Service Sundays Under Consideration

A Note from the Board

The board along with Rev. Frank Rivas is considering a trial of staying with the one Sunday service format until January 1, at which time we would reevaluate the benefits of that change.

A One Service Sunday has a number of advantages:

- The maximum capacity for our sanctuary space is 213. The maximum attendance we have had at both services is 179 and that has happened only once in the last church year, so our usual total attendance at both services is between 120 and 130. We would be under the maximum attendance requirement for the use of our space. The church looks lively and welcoming with a larger congregation present at a Sunday service. If the sanctuary is sparse (due to splitting our attendance into two services) visitors may feel the church is not as active as it really is.
- Hospitality Teams have been stretched to accommodate both services and coffee hours. The second service has increasingly been sparsely attended, and the second coffee hour is very lightly attended. The second service has less than half of people at the first service. We want coffee hour to be lively and welcoming, but that is challenging with few people attending it.
- One service would allow us to use the second hour for adult education programs, listening circle groups, and special RE classes such as OWL.
- One service would make our membership and new visitor programs more manageable, as we are going to institute new programs this fall.
- There have been discussions at board meetings about the loss of community with two services and two coffee hours, and this move would address that concern. This has been a concern over the last few years.
- If we reach a membership total of 300, we would then need to reevaluate our space needs. Our membership total now is 211 with pledging friends at 33.

There are of course, some down sides to this, as some people worry about crowding and other issues.

The church leadership would like to hear from you about this. At our Leadership Retreat we will devote time to discuss this issue. The retreat will be held on August 6th at 10:30am at the Joslyn Art Museum. All are welcome. To RSVP please contact the church office at admin@firstuomaha.org. Another opportunity will be a Board Talk Back to be held on Sunday, August 7th during coffee hour. Alan Vovolka and Kabin Thomas will be there to answer questions and discuss one service Sundays. If you have questions or thoughts, feel free to email the board at board@firstuomaha.org.

A Note from Jan, Director of Religious Education

The children and teaching staff in the RE wing are thoroughly enjoying our flourishing vegetable garden. As the garden bears fruit, the kids are picking their own harvest. The tomatoes have not come in full force yet, but it's still early.

On August 14, the RE kids will be preparing and serving homemade salsa and chips made from their own garden. We are thrilled with the stepping stones supplied for the garden by Lee Helmberger, arborist husband of Carrie Helmberger, our membership coordinator. Thanks to them from everyone in RE. See page 14 for a photo.

As an added source of interest from week to week, we will be sharing special rocks, minerals and fossils. This is an extra activity building to the Omaha Gem and Mineral Show October 2, at the Westside Middle School.

The focus of our curriculum for the Fall is World Religions. In preparation for these lessons, students are currently learning about the continents on an interactive world map. Besides the major world religions, students will gain an understanding of the belief systems of aboriginal peoples of the continents.

Salsa Sunday!



Join us during coffee hour on Sunday, August 14th to sample homemade salsa with ingredients grown, prepared and served by Sunday School kids for you.

Overview of Sunday School and Activities

Birth-Kindergarten — 10am—noon. Nursery open. Parent/guardian sign in and out.

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

Grades 6-12 — *10:30-11:30 am. Class Time at Spielbound. Game choice and discussion with teachers. Youth at church walk over with Ryan Cook meeting at west RE door. Otherwise, parent responsible for drop-off.

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 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

Every Saturday churches in our area join together to cook a meal, serve their neighbors and bring a sense of community to our neighborhood at First Baptist Church. Our church has committed to the following Saturdays for Community Meals in 2016:

October 1
November 12
December 24

Please mark your calendar. We will need people to help with desserts, cooking, serving and cleaning up. Thank you to everyone who has already helped with meals earlier this year.

Community Meals for our church is inactive until our October date. In the meantime, please let me encourage you to lend a hand to Kim Callaghan's Y.E.S. meals. This monthly meal helps homeless youth in the metro area. We prep the food in the church kitchen and deliver the meal to the Y.E.S. House. See next page for more details.

Thanks!
Diane Withem,
Community Meals Leader

Our Next Y.E.S. Meal

Tuesday, August 16 at 10am in the kitchen

Kim Callaghan is heading up this volunteer effort, and she needs four helpers for the next prep.

We'll be serving hotdogs on buns, a pasta/veggie salad, fruit and dessert. As school will have started back up, Kim would like to gather donations for school supplies: pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, anything that a teen might need for school.

Personal care products are still (and always) needed. One of the rules for the extended stay portion of the Y.E.S. shelter is to either hold a job or attend school. Side note: Y.E.S. just celebrated 12 of their kids graduating high school and four have registered for college!

For the August meal — from Kim:

I will need four people to assist. Two helpers from 10am-12pm, another two volunteers from 12pm -2pm. If you would like to stay the entire time, that's welcome also! Please let me know if you can help in any form! Email:

kjcallaghan@hotmail.com.



The July YES Team of Volunteers: Kim Callaghan, Nadine Keith, Linda Hruska, and Sharon Conlon.

Share the Plate This Month: Siena/Francis House

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 August we share the plate with Siena/Francis House, the region's largest shelter providing food, shelter, clothing and hope to homeless men, women and children. For more information, please visit their website:

www.sienafrancis.org.



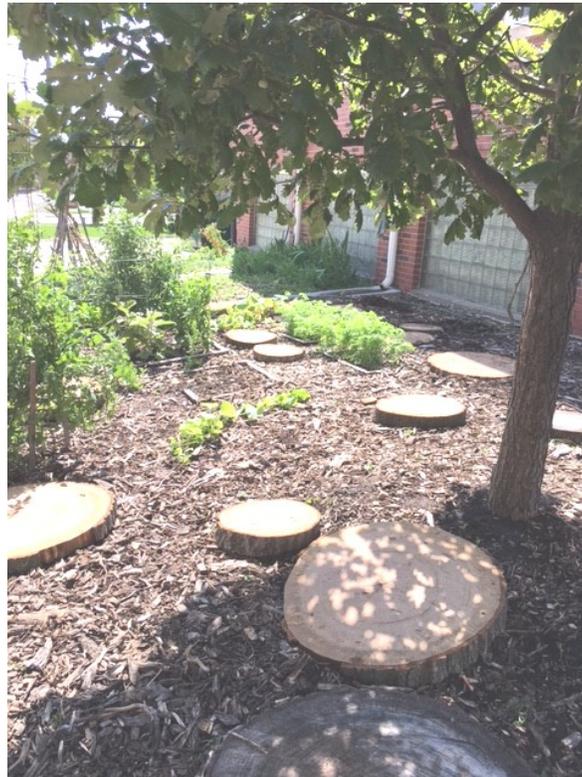
Change for Change

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!

Thank you!

Thanks to Carrie Helmberger, our membership coordinator, and her arborist husband Lee for the gorgeous white oak stepping stones for our children's garden.

Photo by Jan Wilson.



*Our NAMI Walk Team.
We had a great time at this
year's walk-a-thon. This
event raised money for
NAMI (National
Association on Mental
Illness).*

Photo by Marie Sedlacek.



Halloween Heads-Up: Heart & Hand Auction--October 28th!

By Donna Neff

It seems far off to think of fall activities in the heat of summer, but mark your calendars now to attend the Halloween Heart & Hand Auction: Friday, October 28, 6-10 pm! This is our major annual FUNdraiser for the church operating budget and a great party. Generous donors, enthusiastic buyers, and a big crew of volunteers will guarantee another successful Auction. Luckily, the preparation is part of the fun! Physical items are welcomed, but the heart & hand title reflects the emphasis on donating seats at social events you host or sharing your skills and hobbies. Often, several people team together to offer a party, dinner, concert, or outing. Events can be scheduled at the church, but folks especially enjoy the opportunity to share hospitality at homes. Auction events have become an important part of our church calendar, helping build friendships and our church community. Start now to ponder what you might donate! In September, the familiar Auction Table will appear in the Common Room, the website will go active, and serious pestering will begin for donations. Donna Neff, FUNdraising chair, is the go-to gal for all things Auction. Important Side Note: You may have noticed pleas for a "big boo boss" in recent church communications. This is heads-up that this fall will be Donna's last year to run the Auction. One or (better) two new Auction enthusiasts are needed now to "shadow" (mostly) and help (as much or little as you wish) with this year's Auction to learn the ropes. Plus, you get to wear really neat t-shirts at coffee hours, and learn amazing things about what people enjoy doing when they are not in church. Contact Donna for all the gory details of what is involved (without obligation). Again, put a big X on your calendar for Friday, Oct. 28th and please get involved in some way, large or small, in this important and fun event. Contact Donna with ideas, questions, and to volunteer auction@firsttuomaha.org and stay tuned for fall fun.



Banner News

Our Black Lives Matter banner made an appearance at a peaceful rally in July. This event was held at 120th & Center. In this photo you can see Rene Harper, Black Lives Matter Team Leader, as the banner is held up.



RE News—Flicker

If you are parent of a child who attends our Sunday School, be sure you are receiving our weekly email sent out by Jan Wilson, Director of Religious Education. The Flicker gives week-to-week updates about Sunday School lessons and activities for families. Contact Jan at dre@firstuomaha.org to sign up for these updates today!



FLICKER RE News

a little something from Jan's desk

July 17, 2016

July Teachers

3	10	17	24	31
Jenny Gale	Jenny Gale	Jenny Gale	Jenny Gale	Jenny Gale
Sheri Roman	Jan	Sheri Roman	Sheri Roman	Donna Roman
Adam	Adam	Adam	Adam	Adam



Dates & Events

August 14 is Salsa Sunday.

Our children's garden is flourishing! We will serve homemade salsa to the congregation at coffee hour.

Fri. July 15 5:30 Pops
Aksarben, Stinson Park
Sun, July 17, 10:30 K-5 classes
10:30 6-12 grades
Whitney Young rm.

Our July 17 Lesson

In preparation for our World Religions study we will practice naming and locating the continents on an interactive map.

We will learn a continents song to help us remember.

We will learn about the equator and the eastern and western hemispheres.



Next week:

What do you see in your mind's eye when you think of Africa? It's not all jungle and wild animals.

We Have a Railing!

The photo below is important. Why? Because this railing was installed in the Whitney Young Classroom in July. The area enclosed leads to the elevator service room. This corner now is blocked by this gate to ensure safety of our church friends and members. The gate should NOT be opened and nothing should be stored in this space. The elevator inspector comes once a year to check that our elevator service room is accessible. We cannot block it with large pieces of furniture or a wall. Instead, this gate will open when/if we ever do need fire fighters to access the elevator room. A special thanks to Pierce Carpenter for making this gate happen.



Got Rocks?

Attention rock, mineral, fossil, crystal enthusiasts: Jan Wilson is putting together rock lessons and would appreciate donations of different categories of rocks, minerals, fossils, etc.. If this is a passion of yours, please share your rocks and other items with Jan. Contact Jan at dre@firstuomaha.org. We are looking for all kind of rocks and appreciate your help!



Minister

Frank Rivas

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Jan Wilson

dre@firstuomaha.org**Membership Coordinator**

Carrie Helmberger

coordinator@firstuomaha.org**Church Administrator**

Catharine Dixon

admin@firstuomaha.org**Organist**

Pat Will

Choir Director

Bob McMeen

Early Service Pianist

Stan Harper

Minister Emeritus

Ronald Knapp

Nursery Coordinator

Jenny Hastings

Custodian

Bobby Medrano

Nominating Committee

Mary Thomas, Kim Callaghan,
Molly Dewell, Nadine Keith,
Dave Olson, Carol Ramsey,
Ben Wallace

THE FLAME

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

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First Unitarian Churchwww.firstuomaha.org

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Meet Our Leaders

Board Members

Jackie Anderegg (President), Alan Vovolka (President-Elect), Sheri Conner, Cy Leise (Secretary), Linda Parker, Kabin Thomas, Floyd Prine, Joe Schaaf
board@firstuomaha.org

Trustees of the Capital Trust

Steve Hutchinson (2017), Evelyn Whitehill (2018), Dean Christensen (2019)

Committee on Ministry

Skip Ciulla, Sandy Host, Marie Sedlacek

Ministry Team Council

Rev. Frank Rivas, Nellie Chenoweth, Alan Vovolka, Diane Withem
mtc@firstuomaha.org

Ministry Teams and Team Leaders

Archives - Dave Richardson

Black Lives Matter - Rene Harper

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

Hope in Action - Kim Dunovan

Hospitality Teams - Carolyn McNamara

House and Grounds - Pierce Carpenter

Membership - Caitlin & Tom Seguin

Neighborhood Ministry - Royal Carleton

Office - Carolyn McNamara

Omaha Together One Community - Laurie Gift

Partner Church - Janet West

Religious Education - Sheri Conner

Social Justice - Lori Schaaf

Women's Alliance - Nellie Chenoweth

Worship Arts Team - Megan Gustafson

Young Adult Group - Anne Rodriguez

YRUU - Adam Sagert

Church Events

People's Film Festival

Monday, August 1 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 4 for information.

Community Night

Friday, August 5 at 5:30pm in the Common Room

See page 4 for details.

All Church Leadership Retreat

Saturday, August 6, offsite

See page 6 for information.

Board Talk Back

Sunday, August 7 during coffee hour

See page 10 for details.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 9 at 7pm in the Common Room

Private Wedding

Saturday, August 13 at 4pm

Salsa Sunday

Sunday, August 14

See page 11 for more information.

Flame Deadline

Submit your newsletter articles to

admin@firstuuomaha.org by

August 15 at noon.

People's Film Festival

Monday, August 15 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 4 for information.

Y.E.S. Meal Prep

Tuesday, August 16 at 9am in the kitchen

See page 13 for details.

POPS: Parents of Preschoolers

Friday, August 19 — offsite this month

See page 4 for information.

UU & You Class

Sunday, August 21 at 11:45am in the Whitney Young Classroom

See page 4 for details.

Arts & Crafts Night

Sunday, August 21 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 4 for information.

Young Adult Game Night

Saturday, August 20 at 6:30pm in the Common Room

See page 5 for information.

The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

Thursday, August 18 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge

See page 4.

Polyamory Discussion Group

Monday, August 22 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 5 for details.

Exploring Humanist Perspectives

Tuesday, August 23 at 7pm in the Common Room.

See page 5 for details.

Private Wedding

Saturday, August 27 at 4pm

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, August 28 at 11:30am in the Whitney Young Room

See page 4 for details.

New Member Celebration

Sunday, August 28 at 6pm in the Common Room

Book Club

Monday, August 29 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge

See page 5 details.

Recurring...

Meditation

Every Tuesday at 8am in the sanctuary. See page 5.

Women's Religious Studies Group

Meets most Thursdays at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5 for information.

Dungeons & Dragons Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. See page 5.

Bridge Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. See page 5.

Upcoming Church Events Beyond August

Welcome Home

Intergenerational Service at 10:30am

Sunday, September 11

See page 5

Welcome Home Ice Cream Social at 11:30am

Sunday, September 11

See page 5

First Steps & Pathways — Classes for Visitors

Begins in September

See page 7



We whose names are here subscribed associate ourselves together as a Religious Society for mutual helpfulness in right living and for the advancement of sound morals and pure religion in the community: and we hereby pledge ourselves to bear our part in the common cause and to care for the welfare and influence of the Society of which by this act we become members. Basing our union upon this expressed moral and religious purpose rather than upon any dogmatic statement of belief, and emphasizing the religion of character and daily life above all creedal confessions, we invite to our membership all who are seriously drawn to us in our spirit and aims and who desire to have with us their Church Home under the Articles of Incorporation.

— **Bond of Union, August 22, 1869**

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