

November 2017

# The Flame



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

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Sunday Services this  
Month

**Pages 4 & 5**

Church Events

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Holiday Dinner  
Sign-Up Form

## Sunday Services

**Sunday, November 5 at 10:30am**

**“Paradox”**

**Rev. Frank Rivas**

What religions have in common is that none of them makes sense.

**Sunday, November 12 at 10:30am**

**“Cookies, Meth, and Authentic Renewal”**

**Rev. Frank Rivas**

Where church and state can nurture one another.

**Sunday, November 19 at 10:30am**

**“Crazy Enough to Give Thanks”**

**Rev. Frank Rivas**

A Thanksgiving message for difficult times.

**Sunday, November 26 at 10:30am**

**“Waking Up White”**

**Kim Dunovan**

Waking up to my own story of race and how my white skin changed the trajectory of my life, with some reflections on what it means to see more of the world.

## Sunday Forums

*Forums are held at 9:30am in the Common Room. If you have a topic you would like to share, please contact the Forum Coordinator, Bebe at [forum@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:forum@firstuuomaha.org).*

**Note: There is no Sunday Forum on November 5th so our Team Leaders can prep for the Team Fair happening in the Common Room during coffee hour.**

**Sunday, November 12 at 9:30am**

**Saving for Your Children’s Future with Robert McCammond**

There is \$1.3 trillion of student debt in the United States, with the average student having \$55,000 in student debt by the time he/she leaves college. How can your kids avoid being part of this broken system? Robert will be presenting tips and strategies on how to save for your kids’ or grandchildren’s post secondary education.

**Sunday, November 19 at 9:30am**

**Minimalism: What, Why, and How with Bebe Barreras-McCammond**

Minimalism is a way to go back to making conscious choices and living with intention. It’s a common misconception that minimalism is, above all else, about subtracting physical possessions from your life when really it's more about making room to add things into your life.

**Note: There is no Sunday Forum on November 26th because it is Thanksgiving weekend.**

**Before you head to bed on Saturday, November 4 be sure to FALL BACK. Set your clock back one hour. See you at church on Sunday!**



### TEAM FAIR

**Sunday, November 5 during coffee hour**

**Q: What’s a team fair?**

**A: Your way to learn about volunteer opportunities in the church. Get involved, give back and meet new people. Learn new skills and bring your talent to a team! We need you!**

Just a few of the teams that will be represented:

*Membership Team (assist in engagement & growth)*  
*Heritage Task Force (plan/organize anniversary parties & book)*  
*Building Team (make sure the church keeps standing)*  
*A/V Team (stream the service, work on sound, & make a difference)*  
*Fellowship Team (plan, decorate & generate fun for get-togethers)*  
*Religious Education (teach kids, learn new things, & create art)*  
*Office Team (make copies, file papers & work behind the scenes)*

## Rev. Elations

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

One of the unsung accomplishments of Barb Ross was that she was the glue that bound together the small group who regularly shared lunch with the minister. She noticed, for example, when a regular missed a couple of times and called; as important, she brought a particular *joie de vivre* to each of our lunches. Without her, the regular group disbanded, and I would like to start anew.

Instead of meeting each week, I now invite members and friends to join me for one lunch a month. Instead of having no particular agenda, I will start with a topic. We can, of course, reject that topic and go on to whatever compels us that day, but a designated topic seems a reasonable place to start.

The November lunch will be in the Common Room at noon on Thursday, November 9. We will begin by discussing the future of Unitarian Universalism. Will our movement become stronger, weaker, or stay the same over the next few decades? What can we do to affect the outcome?

Please pack a lunch and join us. We always have water and can easily prepare coffee. I'll bring fruit, nuts, or something else to share. We'll disband by 1 o'clock.

The church, like all of life, is in constant flux. Barb is no longer with us, and she will be missed. At the same time, young families with infants and small children pop up in every corner. Welcome. Join in wherever you'd like. May your time with us enrich your lives, as you definitely enrich ours.

Blessings and love,  
Frank

22nd Annual  
Jewish  
Christian  
Muslim

# Interfaith THANKSGIVING

"How good and pleasant it is when God's  
people live together in unity!" Psalm 133

**Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**

Hosted by:  
First Central Congregational Church  
421 South 36 Street  
Omaha NE 68131

All 7th-12th grade students  
are invited to a youth gathering  
at 4:00 p.m. at First Central  
Congregational Church  
for a free meal.



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, a free will offering will be donated to:



## Church Events

### Conservative/Liberal Dialogues

*Six Sundays, 2pm in the Common Room starting October 29. See page 8.*

### CommUnity Night

*Friday, Nov. 3 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. Kids are free to play. If you can't bring anything or you are feeling too rushed to grab or make something last minute COME ANYWAY! There is always plenty of food and what we really want is YOUU!

### Reading of the Play "Sedition"

*Saturday, Nov. 4 at 6pm in the Common Room.* Please see page 10.

### Sunday, November 5: Team Fair During Coffee Hour

This is our traditional team fair that happens every fall. Teams represented will include: House & Grounds, Fundraising, Garden, Membership, Fellowship, Partner Church, Hospitality, Office, and more. Contact [mtc@firstuomaha.org](mailto:mtc@firstuomaha.org) for more information.

### First UU Young Adults Group

*Sunday, Nov. 5 at 12pm in the Merritt Lounge.* This group welcomes everyone ages 18-35 from all over the Omaha Metro. We'll begin our new series: "Becoming: A Spiritual Guide for Navigating Adulthood." Note: we will start at noon to give people time to visit the Team Fair.

### CUUPS Business Meeting

*Sunday, Nov. 5 at 6pm in the Common Room.* We'll elect our team leader-elect and possibly a secretary and we'll cover a Covenant and By-Laws. It's a potluck—please bring a dish to share.

### People's Film Festival

*Monday, Nov. 6 at 7pm in the Common Room.* We will watch *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*. A decade after *An Inconvenient Truth* brought climate change into the heart of popular culture, comes the riveting follow-up that shows how close we are to a real energy revolu-

tion. Al Gore continues his fight traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy.

### Examining Whiteness: An Anti-Racism Curriculum

*Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30pm beginning November 7th in the Common Room.* The subject of racism is difficult and emotion filled. It can generate strong feelings. The facilitators of this curriculum are committed to creating a safe space for real conversations, personal examinations, liberated discussions and growth during this six-week program. Each week we will be covering set topics/materials provided to us by the Unitarian Universalist Association. We hope you are able to join us fully on this journey, but if for some reason you need to miss a week, you will be able to go over the material we are covering on your own. The facilitators will be René Harper, Ben Wallace and Andrea Hayes. You can contact Andrea with any questions: [dreahayes@gmail.com](mailto:dreahayes@gmail.com) / 402-709-8523. More information is at our Facebook event here: [www.facebook.com/events/693145754213345](https://www.facebook.com/events/693145754213345). Space is very limited. Please contact Andrea if you want to attend. We will offer future dates for this course.

### Lunch with the Minister

*Thursday, November 9th at noon in the Common Room.* Beginning in November we will meet once a month. We will begin by discussing the future of Unitarian Universalism. Will our movement become stronger, weaker, or stay the same over the next few decades? What can we do to affect the outcome? Pack a lunch and come join us!

### AHA(Atheists/Humanists/Agnostics) Discussion Group

*Thursday, Nov. 9 in the Common Room.* Program starts at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm for dinner. The program "The Primacy of Perception" will be structured around a sermon Ron Knapp presented in July that dealt with the problem of illusion and reality. The thesis of the sermon is as follows: We do not live in, or act upon, the

world as it is, but upon the world as it appears to be, the world as we perceive it to be! The program includes four responses to, or critiques of, the sermon, readings related to the theme, and general discussion.

### Women's Alliance

*Monday, Nov. 13 at 6:30pm in the Common Room.* Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend this gathering. Our program will be presented by Michaela Williams, the president of Care Consultants for the Aging, which is the first homecare registry to provide a comprehensive free resource guide to eldercare in Omaha. The ElderCare Resource Handbook includes complete listings of government resources, medical support, home health care, living options, and other senior services within the Omaha metro area. Williams will lead us through various stages of aging while focusing on options for care using the handbook. Need childcare to join us? No problem! We now offer childcare. When you RSVP please include your child's name, age and any dietary needs. Pizza will be provided for November for the children. We ask for \$15 which goes to the cost of the dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, and the Partner Church scholarship. If this will be your first time attending a WA get-together, please be our guest. Pizza and salad will be the dinner of choice, including a gluten-free and vegan option. When you RSVP please indicate whether you prefer MEAT, CHEESE, GLUTEN-FREE, or VEGAN. Please RSVP via the Facebook event page on First Unitarian's page OR email Jeri Thurber at [jeri.thurber@gmail.com](mailto:jeri.thurber@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing everyone on November 13th!

### The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

*We do not meet in November or December.*

### Young Adult Game Night

*Friday, Nov. 17 at 6pm in the Common Room.* All are invited to join the Young Adults for this event. We will have childcare! Bring snacks and board games.

## Church Events Continued...

### Women's Alliance Bake Sale

*Sunday, November 19 during coffee hour.* Get all your goodies from our annual bake sale which is held the Sunday before Thanksgiving! Help the Women's Alliance while you help yourself to cookies, pies and more!

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

*Sunday, Nov. 19 at 5pm at First Central Congregational Church (offsite).* Our choir will sing during this service. See page 3 for more information.

### TDOR:

#### Transgender Day of Remembrance

*Monday, Nov. 20. Doors open at 6pm; program begins at 6:30pm.* See page 9 for details.

### Examined Life Group

*Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge.* This is a group determined to become democratic with each participant presenting a topic related to how we assess ourselves personally and as members of society. The ultimate aim is to foster mutual understanding among ourselves and the others attending. Interested? Contact Jack at [jackheidel@yahoo.com](mailto:jackheidel@yahoo.com).

### Board Talk Back (4th Sunday)

*Sunday, Nov. 26 at 11:30am in the Common Room.* The church board wants to hear from you and discuss issues that are important to you.

### People's Film Festival

*Monday, Nov. 27 at 7pm in the Common Room.* We will watch *Truth* which is based on Mary Mapes' memoir *Truth and Duty: The Press, the President, and the Privilege of Power* (2005, St. Martin's Press).

### Book Club

*Monday, Nov. 27 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge.* The book for this month is *We Were Eight Years in Power; An American Tragedy* by Te-Nehisi Coates. Questions? Contact Dave at [dritchardson821@gmail.com](mailto:dritchardson821@gmail.com).

### Taoism Discussion Group

*Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 6:30pm in the Merritt Lounge—note: room change for this month only.* Join us to discuss anything and everything related to Taoism! As Taoism is best understood

through practice rather than theory, the goal of this group is to provide a participatory space to explore how Taoism is applied in daily life, with an emphasis on experience. With our direct experiences as a reference point, we can then delve into the main texts of Taoism.

Questions? Contact Geoff Erickson at [gerickson03@gmail.com](mailto:gerickson03@gmail.com).

### Recurring Events

#### NAMI Connections

*Meets every Wednesday at 1pm in the Whitney Young Room.* This is a peer-run group for persons living with mental health challenges. This group will meet every Wednesday at 1pm. If you have questions, please email Terri Lynn at [guburr77@outlook.com](mailto:guburr77@outlook.com).

#### YRUU—Youth Group

*Wednesdays at 7pm in the Common Room.* Our weekly youth group at church meets September - May. Need more information? Contact the advisors at [yruuomaha@gmail.com](mailto:yruuomaha@gmail.com). Note: No YRUU meeting on November 22.

#### Choir

*Wednesdays at 7pm in the Sanctuary.* Would you like to join the choir? Contact our Choir Director William at [choirdirector@firstuomaha.org](mailto:choirdirector@firstuomaha.org). Note: In November, the choir meets on the first Thursday (Nov. 2).

#### Women's Religious Studies Group

This group meets every Thursday, except for the 3rd week of the month at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. This group explores a wide range of religious beliefs through reading and discussion. New members welcome. We're reading *The Essence of Shinto: Japan's Spiritual Heart* by Motohisa Yamakage. Contact Neva at [hansen.cozine@gmail.com](mailto:hansen.cozine@gmail.com). Note: No meeting on Thanksgiving.

#### Refuge Recovery Group

*Every Thursday, 6pm to 7:30pm, in the Whitney Young Classroom beginning Sept. 28.* A new chapter of Refuge Recovery, "a Buddhist path to recovery from addiction," is being organized by Forrest Knapp. Refuge Recovery is a

program that "does not asks anyone to believe anything, only to trust the process and do the hard work of recovery." For further information, see [refugerecovery.org](http://refugerecovery.org) or email Forrest at [forrestknapp@yahoo.com](mailto:forrestknapp@yahoo.com).

#### Dungeons and Dragons Group Meeting

*Meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in the Common Room at 12:30pm.* Questions? Contact Roman at [RobertmNoriega@gmail.com](mailto:RobertmNoriega@gmail.com), 402-769-4260.

#### Bridge Group

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

### Future Events

#### Teams Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2pm in the Common Room. See page 14.

#### Holiday Dinner—Save the date!

Saturday, December 9 with social hour at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm. See page 6 for registration form. RSVPs are required.

#### Chili Cookoff—Save the date!

Saturday, January 27 in the Common Room.

**See page 7 for Ways You Can Help & Get Involved**

## *Annual Holiday Dinner*

Saturday, December 9 in the Common Room  
Social Hour at 5:30pm; Dinner at 6:30pm

A fabulous, delectable menu prepared by Attitude on Food  
(Vegetarian & vegan selections included)

Cost is \$22.00 per person which includes the tip for the servers and clean-up  
so that our faithful volunteers can take a much needed break and enjoy the evening.

**Please make reservations with your check to First Unitarian  
to arrive in the office by Friday, December 1.** Put your check and this form  
in the offering plate or mail both to the church office.

**Your check is your reservation.**

Please circle what you are able to bring:

**Appetizer      Dessert**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your childcare reservation when you RSVP for the dinner.  
Pizza and all the fixings will be provided.

Yes, I will need childcare \_\_\_\_ # of children \_\_\_\_ ages \_\_\_\_\_

*We want everyone to be able to come and celebrate.*

*However, if confidential financial assistance would make it possible for you to attend, please  
contact Rev. Frank Rivas.*

**Before you head to bed on Saturday, November 4 be sure to FALL  
BACK. Set your clock back one hour.**



## *Ways You Can Get Involved & Help*

**Audio Team: Helpers Needed** Join the Sound Team. If you can use a laptop or a smart phone, you can help with the sound system! Contact the church office today to find out how you can get involved. Help us make Sunday mornings sound even better. You are needed. Email: [admin@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuuomaha.org)

**Community Meals Volunteers Needed** We need volunteers for Saturday, November 18th! See page 12 more info.

**YES Meal Prep** Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 9:30am in the kitchen. Help us prepare and deliver a mac-n-cheese meal. Contact Kim at [kjcallaghan@hotmail.com](mailto:kjcallaghan@hotmail.com) if you can help. We're collecting donations of socks, underwear and baby wipes. Contact Kim to arrange drop-off of items. YES (Youth Emergency Services) helps homeless youth in Omaha. Go here for more info: [www.yesomaha.org](http://www.yesomaha.org).

**Heritage Task Force -- Join us!** We're still looking for volunteers to help with our major church anniversaries that are coming up. Interested in Archives? Contact Linda Parker at [lparkerlib@gmail.com](mailto:lparkerlib@gmail.com). Interested in the Anniversary Book Team? Contact Dave Richardson at [drichardson821@gmail.com](mailto:drichardson821@gmail.com). Interested in Event Planning & Communications? Contact Janet West at [jmasonwest77@yahoo.com](mailto:jmasonwest77@yahoo.com). Thank you!

## It's Almost BAKE SALE time! Sunday, November 19



**Imagine getting invited to a Thanksgiving dinner and you need a delicious dessert to bring. Now imagine yourself the week before Thanksgiving and realizing you don't have time to bake anything.**

**No fret! Women's Alliance can help!!**

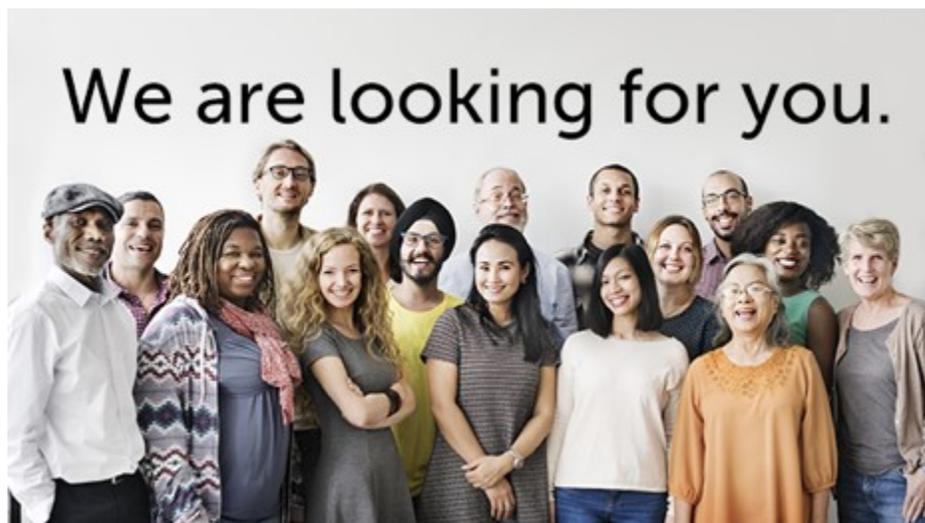
**We will host our annual bake sale the Sunday before Thanksgiving during coffee hour to help with all your Thanksgiving baking needs.**

Love to bake? Help by donating yummy baked goods to sell. Email [wa@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:wa@firstuuomaha.org) for details.

Don't have time to bake? Show your support by purchasing a yummy treat! This annual event has brought joy to the bakers and donators of Women's Alliance. All proceeds from the bake sale go towards our Merritt Education Fund.

The Merritt Education Fund has gone through some changes over the years. It started out as a scholarship fund to help college-bound students with their expenses. About three years ago the fund's purpose developed to help broaden personal development directly related to church functions and education advancement. Previous recipients who requested assistance included costs to cover General Assembly, Leadership School, and OWL Training, and helped with college course costs and the purchase of books to further their careers. You can find the Merritt Fund Application form in the mailroom, on the First Unitarian website, or at the bake sale!

# FRUSTRATED BY ALL THE POLITICAL ARGUING? JOIN CONSERVATIVE-LIBERAL DIALOGUES!



OCTOBER 29 - DECEMBER 3 (6 Sundays), 2pm-3:30pm in the Common Room at First U Church

Sometimes it feels impossible to talk with people who see things differently.

Still, many people from various political perspectives want to solve problems.

The Conservative-Liberal Dialogue process provides a safe way to share your experiences, concerns, differences and solutions. Here's how it works:

1. An equal number of Conservatives and Liberals are invited
2. "Speed Friending" exercise connects people personally
3. Rules of respectful communication are taught in a fun, interactive way
4. Experts will present facts on economic opportunity, climate, and immigration
5. We discuss topics 1-to-1, so EVERYONE gets to talk and be heard
6. We begin by talking about how we developed our beliefs and values, then grow our ability to deal with controversial subjects.

Come even if you think you don't have the courage, or the patience, or the ability to communicate with folks who are different from you.

Do your part to generate understanding and cooperation, and you may be surprised how much we all have in common. Call Elaine Wells at 402-415-9500 for more information.

**There is no charge, but registration is necessary. The link to register is <http://bit.ly/CLDialogues>  
This event is open to anyone!**

**TDoR Omaha Presents...**

# **TDoR Omaha 2017**

**Transgender Day of Remembrance**

**Doors open at 6:00pm**

**Program begins at 6:30pm**

**Dessert and Beverage Reception to follow**

## **MONDAY**

## **NOVEMBER 20TH, 2017**

**Remembrance for those killed in the name of transphobia.**

**Celebration of history and achievement.**

**Space for everyone, to gather in community together.**

Rev. Frank Rivas, First Unitarian Church  
River City Mixed Chorus

Candle Lighting/US Names Shared

Mayor Jean Stothert, City of Omaha

Speaker: Kim Callaghan, Mother of Transgender youth

Joni Watke Stacy, Transgender History

Chaplain Royal, The Inclusive Life Center

Tammy S., Spoken Word

Rev. Susan Ellis, Music/Closing Words

**First Unitarian Church of Omaha**

**3114 Harney Street**

**NEW: PLEASE bring your Mid-Town garage parking  
ticket IN to the church to be validated for free parking!**

**tdoromaha.com**

## Reading of the Play “Sedition” at Church Saturday, November 4th at 6 pm

### Sedition in Nebraska, 1917-2017

Saturday, Nov. 4 at 6pm in the Common Room. Admission to the reading is free.

*Sedition*, written by David Wiltse, will be read at First Unitarian. *Sedition* is based on actual events at the University of Nebraska in 1917-18. The play focuses on the trial of Professor Andrew Schrag, grandfather of the playwright. AFCON (Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska) will provide historical background concerning the 1918 University of Nebraska professors’ trial, in which a dozen professors were tried before the Board of Regents for not being sufficiently loyal and anti-German as the U.S. went to war with Germany. In addition to Andrew Schrag, who was a professor of German, defendants included Harry K. Wolfe, who received his Ph.D. in Germany and brought the new scientific psychology back to Nebraska in the 1880s; George Washington Andrew Luckey, an expert in child study and pedagogy, who founded and led what became the College of Education; and Clark Persinger, a staunch defender of academic freedom who headed the Department of American History.

Come for a reading and stay afterward for a discussion. If you would like to get involved with this event, contact AFCON Board Member, Linda Parker, at [lparkerlib@gmail.com](mailto:lparkerlib@gmail.com).



## Welcome New Members

Sara & Stephen Switzer joined the church on Sunday, October 15th!

Interested in joining? Contact Carrie, our Membership Coordinator, at [coordinator@firstuomaha.org](mailto:coordinator@firstuomaha.org).

*Photo by Bob Hess*

## Notes from Religious Education

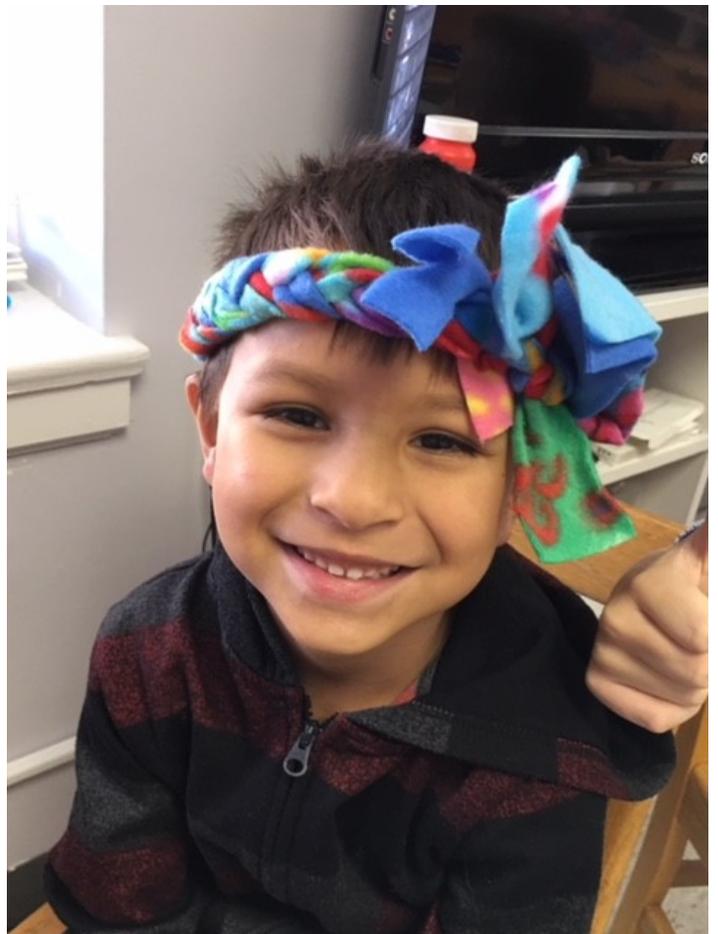
*By Jan Wilson*

The unmistakable signs of fall in Religious Education include this year's take on October dubbed Artober. Many of you know I am a retired art teacher. I dearly love to teach and to facilitate kids making art. In Artober, we have learned about the religious traditions of Judaism through the eyes of Marc Chagall. We celebrated the discoveries of Islam through the cut-outs of Henri Matisse. Matisse designed a Christian chapel in France.

We created our own Matisse-inspired work which we had proudly in the front of our sanctuary on Sunday, October 15th. Paul Gauguin was the next artist of our artier exploration. His work includes the overlaying of the symbols of Christianity and the Tahitian culture. This taught us the Adam and Eve story and the idea of sacrifice symbolized by the crucifixion.

Another unmistakable sign of fall is the Heart and Hand Auction which occurs near Halloween on Friday, Oct. 27th. This is a special celebration of community and fun for our young ones. It parallels the enormous fun of costumes and auction delights enjoyed by the adults. This fun fundraiser is a great reminder of the community of wonderful people and talents that make ours a terrific church.

Also in October, the kids braided fleece strips to make toys for the cats and dogs at the Nebraska Humane Society. The Humane Society was grateful for our donated items. See photos below taken by me.



## Hope in Action

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

### WHO IS SERVED?

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

### WHO CAN HELP?

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

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

### WHAT SUPPORT CAN BE EXPECTED?

Hope in Action is there when people are dealing with a medical problem, need transportation or help around the house, can use assistance with referrals to social service agencies or just need someone to talk to about the ups and downs of life. Our response will vary depending on the type of support that is needed in our church community and what resources we have available.

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

### HOW TO ASK FOR SUPPORT

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

Here are the ways you can ask for support from Hope in Action. You may send an email to [hopeinaction@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:hopeinaction@firstuuomaha.org) or use the Hope in Action link on the church website. Or, you may simply complete a Caring Card, located in the church pews and place it in the offering plate.

### 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 Saturday for Community Meals:

**Saturday, November 18**

Please mark your calendar and contact me if you are interested in helping. 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. Thanks! Diane Withem, [dianewithem@gmail.com](mailto:dianewithem@gmail.com)

## 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 blessing 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

Each month one-half of the loose currency collected in the offering plate is donated to a local cause that advances important principles of Unitarianism. Our Share the Plate recipient for November is **Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)**. To learn more about OTOC, visit the website: <http://otoc.org/>.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that an online address and phone directory of members and friends is available on the church website? Our church website is: [www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.org).

You can access the directory by clicking on the "Members Area" under the "Engage" tab on the home page and enter the members' area password.

If you do not know the password or your personal information needs updating, please contact Catharine Dixon in the church office. Email: [admin@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org) or call 402-345-3039 ext. 101.

Please help us keep the church directory up-to-date.

## Parking at Church

Parking is directly west of the church in the surface parking lot or on the street. If you are able to park in the MidTown Crossing garage to the west of our parking lot, it would leave our small parking lot for visitors and those who need to park closer to the building. You may park in the Midtown Crossing Parking Garage to the west of the church lot. The entrance to the parking garage is on Farnam Street. Have your ticket validated downstairs in the Common Room. Find the ticket-validating machine on the south side of the Common Room on the bookcase. **You must have your ticket validated for free parking.** Questions? Contact the church office at [admin@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org).

## Visiting the Church

When you visit the church during the week day, you will most likely find all the doors locked. This is done so that our staff is safe. We ask members and friends to be sure that all the church doors are locked after an event and sometimes after an event has started to make sure that everyone inside the church is safe. If you find the side door (the handicap accessible door closest to the parking lot) locked just buzz the doorbell to the left of the door. It's the light gray button on the left hand speaker box. See below. If someone is in the office, he or she will speak to you over the speaker. Please identify yourself. Then you will be buzzed in. Sometimes a staff member or another church member in the building will hear the bell and just go open it for you. The door bell can be heard in most parts of the building. If you are hosting an event or need to get into the building when no one is here, please contact the church office to receive a fob so you can enter the locked building. The fob temporarily unlocks the door allowing you to enter the side door. If you need to have the door remain unlocked for a meeting or event, please contact the office: [admin@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org).



## Why Do We Have Pink Attendance Sheets?

You have probably seen the note in the order of worship announcements that says: Please sign in on the pink sheets in each pew. The information gathered will not only help us count attendance at each service but will let us know that someone has not been seen lately and may need assistance.

We take attendance so we know how many friends, members and visitors are here. Attendance helps us determine how many orders of worships to print. Now that we have decided as a church to stay with one service, knowing how many people are here helps us determine if the sanctuary is too full. Plus, if we notice that someone is missing for a few weeks, we can reach out and make sure that person is okay. The office and its volunteers appreciate that folks have been signing in on the pink sheets. Thank you!

## Holiday Shopping? Do You Shop on Amazon?

Follow this link to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and when you make a purchase, Amazon will donate a percentage to First Unitarian Church of Omaha through the AmazonSmile program.

Steps: 1. Visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

2. Search for First Unitarian Church of Omaha then select the organization's name. Be sure to confirm you are selecting the correct organization, as many charitable organizations have similar names.

Or just use this direct link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0388142>

3. Add items to your cart and pay. It's That Easy! When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to First Unitarian Church of Omaha. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

Questions? Contact Donna at [donnaau@gmail.com](mailto:donnaau@gmail.com).



## Inclement Weather Cancellations

In the event of bad weather and service is cancelled, the church office will email everyone on our enews list, update the church webpage, post in the church Facebook group and on the church Facebook page. The church will also alert the local news stations about the cancellation.



## New Team Announcements!

In October the MTC approved **The Baby Welcoming Team** (a sub-team of Caring). This team will plan baby showers and meal trains for parents with new children. Team leaders are Becca Hatcher, Katrina Schmidt and Sara Switzer. If you or someone in the church you know is having/adopting a baby, please contact our Baby Welcoming Team. Email: [smswitzer15@gmail.com](mailto:smswitzer15@gmail.com).

In September the MTC approved **The Gratitude Team**. This team's purpose is to recognize the ongoing efforts of all of our volunteers and paid staff. It was brought to the Board's attention last year that many people who have done very important work have not had any recognition for their efforts, and this depletes the spirit of goodwill and volunteerism necessary to complete the functions and mission of our church. More information will be available soon. The Team Leader is Joe Schaaf. Reach Joe at [joehammer95@gmail.com](mailto:joehammer95@gmail.com) if you know someone who needs to be thanked!

## Teams Meeting

Our next Teams Meeting happens on Saturday, December 2 at 2pm. These meetings are for Team Leaders and volunteers to discuss future plans for the church. Anyone is invited to attend. If you have an agenda item for this meeting, please email the Ministry Team Council (MTC) at [mtc@firstuomaha.org](mailto:mtc@firstuomaha.org).



## Halloween Heart & Hand Auction Update

**Watch for Auction outcome news.** Given the Auction coincides with the Flame publication for November, check other church news to find out who *won the prizes* for best Halloween costumes, who won the raffle for the Big Basket of "B" (worth ~\$200), and of course, how close we will come to our goal of raising \$15,000 for the church. We already know the Auction will be a huge success in generating social interactions all year round from the wonderful parties and events donated!

**Thanks to our generous donors, buyers, and our hard-working volunteers!** There will be a post-Auction bulletin board in the Common Room with lots of fun Auction pictures and recognitions, and on-line. A special thanks to Kathi Oliver and Nellie Chenoweth, our Auction MCs, and their merry assistants for a fun evening!

**Guest Seats for Auction events:** Some of you had big hearts and purchased extra "guest" seats for auction events. Thank you! Please invite your guests yourself, or contact the Auction or Caring Teams for help distributing them. Same with inquiries about whether guest seats are available for a particular event.

**\*\*\*Bills and Post-Auction Follow-up: If you are an Auction donor or buyer, watch your email closely the next few weeks.** We will use regular mail only if no email (saves both stamps and trees). Buyers will receive a summary of their purchases, their bill, and options for payments. Donors will receive a summary of their donation and who purchased it. (The email comes from our auction software, Auctria, so monitor your "spam" folder also.) **Please pay auction bills as soon as possible.** To set up a series of payments, just let us know. We hope to have payment by credit card (CC) available, with a small added CC fee. The Auction Team will be following up all year to help assure all the events and items purchased are enjoyed. Questions? Contact [auction@firsttuomaha.org](mailto:auction@firsttuomaha.org) or call Katrina (402-916-9741 or Donna (402-699-3183).

Again-on behalf of the FUNdraising Team and our church--THANK YOU to all who participated in the 2017 Heart & Hand Auction!

## Welcome to First Unitarian Church of Omaha

We affirm people from all religious backgrounds. We also welcome people from every ethnicity. As a church we promote rationality, spirituality, and the search for justice in our approach to the fundamental questions of human existence.

Our congregation is part of the free-association of Unitarian Universalist churches, nationally known as the Unitarian Universalist Association. This membership means that while our congregation is free to discuss any theology, **we affirm and promote seven principles:**

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;  
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;  
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;  
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;  
The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;  
The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;  
Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

**The living tradition we share draws from many sources:**

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;  
Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront the powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;  
Wisdom from the world's religion which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;  
Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;  
Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;  
Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

## Bond of Union, August 22, 1869

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.

*Adopted May 2017:*

### Mission

**Fostering the Whole Person, Compassion, and Justice**

### Vision

**An inclusive Community that Listens, Engages, Inspires, and Acts**

### Covenant

**We covenant to:**



“Covenant” — Artwork by Jan Wilson, DRE

## Report from the Partner Church Team

By Janet West

2018 will be the 450-year anniversary of the founding of the Transylvanian/Hungarian Unitarian Church and the passage of the first statement of religious freedom and religious tolerance in the western world. First Unitarian Church will join with other American, and UU churches throughout the world, in a joint church service of celebration on Sunday, January 14, 2018. More details to come.

The Partner Church Team has received the scholarship applications from nine young people in Firtosmartonos, Transylvania, Romania. To be eligible for the scholarship, the students must be attending either high school or college. Most of these students must live in dormitories in the cities where the high schools or colleges are located because the high schools and colleges are not a commutable distance from the village. The Partner Church Team sends \$1,200 when the applications are received in the fall and another \$1,200 in the following February. The scholarship money is sent to Rev. Katalin Szasz-Csery, the village minister to be distributed to the young people. The scholarship money is funded by donations to the Partner Church Fund from members and friends of First Unitarian Church.

The Partner Church Team is sponsoring a pilgrimage trip to Transylvania during July 2018. The trip will include touring Transylvania with the emphasis on Unitarian historical sites. The itinerary also includes a side trip to Budapest, Hungary. The travelers will leave Omaha on July 10 or 11 and arrive back in Omaha on July 26 or 27. The estimated airfare cost per person is approximately \$1,600. The travel team, Kandy Scott, Bebe McCammond, and Janet West, are working on some less expensive airfare options. The travel costs within Transylvania and Budapest will be between \$800 and \$1,000 for approximately 16 days. The pilgrims will spend five days in First Unitarian Church's partner village, Firtomartonos, Transylvania, Romania. For more information, contact Janet West: [jmasonwest77@yahoo.com](mailto:jmasonwest77@yahoo.com).



**Minister**

Frank Rivas

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

Jan Wilson

[dre@firstuomaha.org](mailto:dre@firstuomaha.org)**Membership Coordinator**

Carrie Helmberger

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Pat Will

**Choir Director**

William Miller

[choirdirector@firstuomaha.org](mailto:choirdirector@firstuomaha.org)**Choir Accompanist**

J. Gawf

**Pianist**

Stan Harper

**Minister Emeritus**

Ronald Knapp

**Nursery Coordinator**

Jenny Hastings

[childcare@firstuomaha.org](mailto:childcare@firstuomaha.org)**Nursery Aide**

Gale Callaghan

**Custodian**

Bobby Medrano

**Nominating Committee**Molly Dewell, Dave Olson,  
Kathy Oliver, Carol Ramsey,  
Marie Sedlacek, Ben Wallace**THE FLAME**

Deadlines are the 15th of each month.

Word limit: 200. Send submissions to

[admin@firstuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuomaha.org).Editor/Designer: Cat DixonProofers: Lana Hammel,  
Scott Kemper, Lois Norris,  
Debbie HunsbergerFlame Mailing Team:Debbie Hunsberger, Lois Norris,  
Linda Hruska, Kim Callaghan**First Unitarian Church**[www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.org)

402-345-3039

# Meet Our Leaders

**Board Members**Alan Vovolka (President), Maria Wallace (President-Elect), Catherine Plumlee (Secretary), Geoff Erickson, Linda Parker, Floyd Prine, Joe Schaaf,  
Donna Tubach-DavisEmail: [board@firstuomaha.org](mailto:board@firstuomaha.org)**Trustees of the Capital Trust**

Evelyn Whitehill (2018), Dean Christensen (2019), Daniel Byrd (2020)

**Committee on Ministry**

Bruce Godfrey, Collin Hatcher, Carol Ramsey, Donna Tubach-Davis

**Ministry Team Council**

Rev. Frank Rivas, Nellie Chenoweth, Dave Richardson, Maria Wallace

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

Archives/Heritage Task Force—Dave Richardson &amp; Janet West

Baby Welcoming Team—Becca Hatcher, Katrina Schmidt, &amp; Sara Switzer

Black Lives Matter—Rene Harper

Caring—Louise Jeffrey

Chalice Guild—Kay Lynn Goldner

Community Meals—Diane Withem

CUUPS—Kathy Alexander

Early Morning Risers—Mary Kay Peters &amp; Sarah Copeland

Fellowship Team—Judith Wright, Nadine Keith &amp; Nellie Chenoweth

Finance Team—Walt Jesteadt

Forums—Bebe McCammond

Garden—Sharon Conlon

Fundraising Team—Donna Neff &amp; Katrina Schmidt

Hope in Action—Kim Dunovan

Hospitality Teams—Carolyn McNamara

House and Grounds Team—Pierce Carpenter

Listening Circles—Katrina Schmidt

Membership Team—Mike McAtee &amp; Janet West

Midtown Helping Hands—open

Office Team—Carolyn McNamara

Omaha Together One Community—Janet West

Partner Church Team—Janet West

Recycling Coordinator—Jeri Thurber

Social Justice Coordinator—Laura Thomas

Stewardship Team—Mary Kay Peters &amp; Peg Pidgeon

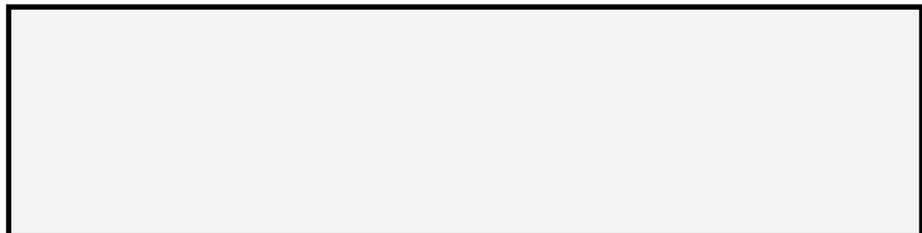
Wayside Pulpit—Kim Dunovan

Women's Alliance—Catherine Plumlee

Worship Arts Team—Maria Wallace

Young Adult Group—Collin &amp; Becca Hatcher

YRUU—Geoff Erickson &amp; Carolyn Miller



## Church Events

### Heart & Hand Auction

Friday, Oct. 27 at 6pm.

#### Go here:

[www.firstuuomaha.org/handh](http://www.firstuuomaha.org/handh)

### Conservative-Liberal Dialogues

First meeting: Sunday, Oct. 29 at 2pm in the Common Room. See page 8.

### CommUnity Night

Friday, Nov. 3 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

### Reading of the Play: "Sedition"

Saturday, Nov. 4 at 6pm in the Common Room. See page 10.

### Team Fair

Sunday, Nov. 5 during coffee hour. See pages 2 and 4 for details.

### First UU Young Adults

Sunday, Nov. 5 at 12pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 4 for details.

### People's Film Festival

Monday, Nov. 6 at 7pm. See page 4.

### Examining Whiteness: An Anti-Racism Curriculum

Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30pm beginning November 7th in the Common Room. See page 4.

### Lunch with the Minister

Thursday, Nov. 9 at noon in the Common Room. See pages 3 & 4.

### AHA Discussion Group

Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

### Private Wedding

Saturday, Nov. 11 at 4pm.

### Women's Alliance

Monday, Nov. 13 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7pm in the Common Room.

### Flame Deadline

Submit your newsletter articles to [admin@firstuuomaha.org](mailto:admin@firstuuomaha.org) by November 15th at noon.

### Young Adult Game Night

Friday, Nov. 17 at 6pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

### Women's Alliance Bake Sale

Sunday, November 19 during coffee hour. See page 5 & 7.

### Interfaith Service (offsite)

Sunday, Nov. 19 at 5pm at First Central Congregational. See page 3 for details.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance

Monday, Nov. 20 at 6:30pm. See page 9 for information.

### YES Meal Prep

Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 9:30am in the kitchen. See page 7.

### Examined Life Group

Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5.

### Private Wedding

Saturday, Nov. 25 at 4pm

### Board Talk Back

Sunday, Nov. 26 at 11:30am in the Common Room. See page 5 for information.

### People's Film Festival

Monday, Nov. 27 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4 for details.

### Book Club

Monday, Nov. 27 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5.

### Taoism Discussion Group

Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 6:30pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5 for details.

### Recurring...

### Women's Religious Studies Group

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

### Refuge Recovery Group

Thursdays at 6pm in the Whitney Young Room. See page 5.

### 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.

### NAMI Connections

Meets Wednesdays at 1pm in the Whitney Young Room. See page 5.

### YRUU (Youth Group) Meeting

Wednesdays at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

### Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 7pm in the Sanctuary. See page 5.

### Future Events...

### Teams Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2pm in the Common Room.

### Holiday Dinner—Save the date!

Saturday, December 9 with social hour at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm. See page 6 for reservation form.

# **Women's Alliance Bake Sale**

**Sunday, November 19**



**during coffee hour**  
*Get all the sweet treats!*

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

[www.firstuomaha.org](http://www.firstuomaha.org)