

First Unitarian Church of Omaha
April 7, 2024
“Light a Fire: Banned Books”
with Melissa Gibson



Welcome & Land Acknowledgment - Mary Kay Peters

- **Prelude** “Turn! Turn! Turn!” P. Seeger arr. D Lanz (J. Gawf, piano)

Chalice Lighting - Banned Book Chalice Lighting by Julie Conrady

We light this chalice remembering the freedoms long established in our nation: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom from the establishment of religion.

We light this chalice honoring those who exemplify protecting those freedoms: Librarians, booksellers, teachers, authors, journalists.

We light this chalice, so that by its light we may read *all* the books: books with archaic language, books with offensive material, books which affirm the diversity of the human race, books which normalize our varied sexualities, books which share multidimensional perspectives of history.

May we bask in the glow of its light this morning as we illuminate, brighten, and radiate; because of the books we have read and the books we have yet to read.

Call to Worship - “On the Pulse of the Morning” by Maya Angelou

Opening Hymn - #44 - We Sing of Golden Mornings

Time for All Ages - *To the tune of “I’ve Got the Joy Joy Joy Joy Down in My Heart”* with lyrics by Melissa Gibson

Community Offering - for April is NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness); a grassroots organization dedicated to education, support, and advocacy for anyone whose life has been touched by mental illness.

Offertory - “Both Sides Now” by J. Mitchell (J Gawd, piano)

To donate online, use the QR code (at right), or go to <https://www.firstuomaha.org/donations>, and scroll down to April’s Share the Plate recipient and click Donate, or [click here](#).

To share a Joy or Concern, write it in the binder at the back of the sanctuary, or in the chat. Thank you!



Care & Centering

Joys & Concerns

Centering Song - #123 - Spirit of Life

Contemplation - I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Anthem - “Oceans and Stars” by Amy Bernon

The Sanctuary Singers directed by William Miller (J Gawf, piano)

Sermon - “Light a Fire: Banned Books” by Melissa Gibson

Closing Song - #1028 - Fire of Commitment

Closing Words taken from On the Pulse of the Morning by Maya Angelou

Extinguishing of Chalice

Coffee & Conversation - Common Room (basement)

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For families: *Childcare is offered during our Sunday services for infants through preschoolers (nursery in basement). Elementary and middle/high Sunday School classes begin after the Time for All Ages portion of our service. Children of all ages are always welcome to attend the full service with their families in our sanctuary. The service is also streamed in the Common Room downstairs (a convenient place to settle a fussy babe).*



Hearing Assist Devices are available in the foyer – along the east wall, or ask an usher / greeter to give you one.

Please make your body comfortable. Feel free to knit or handle fidget toys during the service. Throughout the service, you may sit or stand as works best for your body, too (no compulsory standing for hymns). Restrooms are behind the side door of the sanctuary as you go out, and just down the stairs from the foyer.



Coming up... to learn about [upcoming events](#), classes, and other happenings in the church and beyond, scan the QR code at left. Fill out a yellow [Communication Card](#) (or for those online, [Visitor Form](#)) if you would like to be added to the church’s email list. You can also [follow us on Facebook](#) (go to Follow settings and choose Favorites) and opt in to text messages from the church via Remind (<https://www.firstuomaha.org/remind>). Prefer hard copy? Printouts of the latest Church News e-blast are available in the foyer.

