

November 2018

The Flame



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

Page 2

Sunday Services

Pages 4 & 5

Church Events

Page 6

Holiday Dinner
Reservation Form

Church Services

Sunday, November 4 at 10:30am

"On Memory"

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

What does it mean to remember or to be remembered? What happens when memories differ? Whose memories can be relied upon? What might this mean for the way we understand our history and ourselves? Is memory a virtue?

Sunday, November 11 at 10:30am

"Armistice Day Celebration"

It has been 100 years since the end of World War I, the "war to end all wars." We will honor those who gave their lives in all wars, celebrate our veterans, and share our hope for peace.

Sunday, November 18 at 10:30am

"The Stories We Tell"

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

Holidays are made for storytelling. For this Thanksgiving service, we'll hear stories as they might be told from the perspective of both the Wampanoags and the Pilgrims. What do these stories say about who we are and how we understand ourselves and our history?

Sunday, November 25 at 10:30am

"Exploring Some Historic Imperatives of Liberal Religion"

Ron Knapp, Minister Emeritus

There are some historical imperatives that run through the history of liberal religion. It seems that they are in decline in contemporary Unitarian Universalism. I have fears that if we continue to neglect these imperatives, Unitarian Universalism may cease to exist in the 21st century.

Before you head to bed on Saturday, November 3 be sure to FALL BACK. Set your clock back one hour. See you at church on Sunday!



Sunday Forums

The Sunday Forums take place in the Common Room at 9:30am each Sunday. All are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like to take part in a forum, please email the Forum Coordinator at forum@firstuomaha.org.

Note: There is no Sunday Forum on November 4 so our Team Leaders can prep for the **TEAM FAIR** happening in the Common Room during coffee hour (11:30am to 12:30pm).

Q: What's a team fair?

A: The best 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 (organize anniversary parties), 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), and much more! Please stop by the Team Fair on 11/4.

Sunday, November 11 at 9:30am

"The Social and Political Psychology of White Racial Prejudice and its Political Effects"

Greg Petrow

The election of Donald Trump has featured the resurgence of white racist expressions in mainstream society and media. In this talk I approach this from the perspectives of social and political psychology. What is social science's understanding of what white racism is, what causes it, and why its effects are seemingly ascendant?

Sunday, November 18 at 9:30am

Soul Matters Monthly Topic: Memory

Denise Allain

It is in the space of memory that we are somehow held together, and also re-assembled. As we remember, we are re-membered. In that space, memories become these self-animated threads that weave the pieces and parts of us into this more complete thing we call "me" and "you."

No Forum on November 25.

Ministerial Musings from the Interim Minister

Although the Soul Matters theme for this month is Memory, November is probably better known for the theme of gratitude. Harvest festivals of all kinds as well as the U.S. celebration of Thanksgiving are centered on feelings and practices of gratitude. I find that there is much for me to be thankful for in this season, especially within this congregation. The staff are fun, collaborative, and easy to work with. Members and friends are a joy to get to know, and the sanctuary is beautiful. One of my favorite parts of the work week comes when I am lucky enough to be sitting in my office while Pat rehearses on the organ. I am continually delighted to experience the energy and enthusiasm of this congregation as it engages with its mission. Micah, my spouse, and I both love living in Omaha and find much to enjoy about the city. And personally, I am filled with excitement for the soon to be arrival of my great-nephew, due on the 11th of this month.



Finally, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve our Unitarian Universalist congregations as an interim minister. A long time ago, a parishioner told me: “Church should be fun!” I couldn’t agree more. Engaging in the interim time as a time for fun, creativity, and exploration sets a solid foundation for our work together and makes for a more productive interim. One of the joys of interim work is the openness of a congregation to new ways of being and doing. It is a time of experimentation when congregational changes can be “tried on” and either kept or discarded without feeling locked in to new practices.

One of these new practices will be arriving soon with the introduction of a Soulful Sundown service. Soulful Sundown services are typically held on a Sunday evening and are geared toward youth and young adult participants. They often have an artistic flair and are filled with music, much like what EMR (Early Morning Risers) bring to Sunday morning services. The first Soulful Sundown service will likely be held in December with youth and young adults involved in creating a unique experience of worship. Keep tuned for more news soon and I hope you will join us when the time comes!

In faith,
Rev. Michelle



Women's Alliance Bake Sale & Craft Fair *Sunday, November 18th* *11:30am* In the Common Room

Please consider donating baked goods and homemade craft items.
Bring your donations to the common room on
Saturday from 10-2 or Sunday before the service.

Email Kathi Oliver with any questions or if you would like to donate
Kathryn.lewis.kl@gmail.com

All proceeds benefit the Women's Alliance Merritt Education Fund



CommUnity Night

Friday, Nov. 2 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. The main dish is provided by RE. Everyone is welcome to come to this relaxed monthly potluck dinner. Bring games! Chit chat! There will be childcare. We can't wait to see you!

Team Fair

Sunday, Nov. 4 during Coffee Hour. This is our traditional team fair that happens every fall. Teams represented will include: Fundraising, Garden, Membership, Fellowship, Partner Church, Hospitality, and more. Contact mtc@firstuomaha.org for more information.

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, Nov. 4 at noon in the Whitney Young Classroom. This group welcomes everyone ages 18-35 from all over the Omaha metro. Questions? Please email: youngadults@firstuomaha.org.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Nov. 5 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will watch *The Great Dictator*. This film, boldly goes after the fascist leader before the U.S.'s official entry into World War II, and is an audacious amalgam of politics and slapstick that culminates in Charlie Chaplin's famous impassioned speech.

Compassionate Communication Group

Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. We will not meet 11/20. We're learning about Compassionate Communication developed by Marshall Rosenberg, PhD. All are welcome to attend. Contact Suzanne: nvcsuz@gmail.com for details. If you need childcare, please email childcare@firstuomaha.org.

Atheists, Humanists, and Agnostics Meeting (AHA)

Thursday, Nov. 8 in the Common Room. Doors open at 6pm for socializing and "Bring Your Own Dinner." The meeting starts at 7pm. We would like to invite members of our congregation who hold different beliefs to come and be a part of the next AHA meeting. We want to have a conversation that fosters an understanding of the spiritual needs of the people with

whom we share the pews on Sunday mornings. We will have round table discussions guided by pre-written questions. If you would like more details ahead of time, please send a quick message to Sheri Conner at aha@firstuomaha.org. Please join us.

The 3F Book Bonanza Group

Friday, Nov. 9 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. The book we'll read is *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides. We meet on the 2nd Friday of the month. Contact Denise if you have questions: (denise.allain@yahoo.com).

POPS: Parents of Preschoolers

Saturday, Nov. 10 at 5:45pm in the Common Room. All parents of preschoolers (from littles through primary grades) are invited to attend POPS Nights to connect with other parents from both First and Second Unitarian communities. Childcare is provided on-site. Bring a dish to share and BYOB. Grown-ups will gather in the Common Room. Kids will eat and play in the nursery. Kindly RSVP (for adults and children) to Sarah Eades Hamilton (email: seades.hamilton@gmail.com).

Leadership Talk Back

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 11:30am in the Common Room. The MTC and the Church Board want to hear from you. Have questions? Suggestions? Please join your church leaders at a table in the Common Room during coffee hour. Note: this month we meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

CUUPS Business Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 6pm in the Common Room. This will be a brief meeting to discuss future planning. Questions? Contact: cuups@firstuomaha.org. If you need childcare, please email childcare@firstuomaha.org by 11/4.

Women's Alliance

Monday, Nov. 12 in the Common Room. Socializing and beverages start at 6:15pm with dinner following at 6:30pm. Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend this gathering. Anne Knapp will speak on times of transition within the church and dinner will be pot pies. \$15 dollar freewill donation. Please RSVP

no later than Nov. 5 for childcare and Nov. 9 for attendance to denise.allain@yahoo.com. Please specify meat or veggie and if you have any dietary needs or requests please let us know with your RSVP.

Women's Religious Studies Covenant Group

Thursday, Nov. 15 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. This group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. Our book is *Lifecraft* by Forrest Church. We welcome all self-identified women, and if you are interested, please contact Rae: raeb1@hotmail.com.

WAYS TO HELP:**Community Meals**

Saturday, Nov. 17, offsite. See page 12 for more information.

Friends Giving Potluck

Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. The Young Adults are hosting a Friends Giving Potluck. We will provide Turkey and a Vegan Friendly entree. Please RSVP via the Facebook event or contact Taylor Eman at taylor eman15@gmail.com so that we have an accurate head count. Please sign up to bring drinks, sides and desserts. Dinner will begin at 5:30pm and socializing will continue into the evening (10ish). No childcare will be provided as Friendsgiving is for the whole family. Note: No YA game night in November!

Women's Alliance Bake & Craft Sale

Sunday, Nov. 18 during coffee hour. Get all your goodies from our annual bake sale which is held the Sunday before Thanksgiving! See flyer on page 3.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Nov. 19 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will watch *Concussion*, a dramatic thriller based on the incredible true David vs. Goliath story of immigrant Dr. Bennet Omalu, the brilliant forensic neuropathologist who made the first discovery of CTE, a football-related brain trauma, in a pro-player and fought for the truth to be known.

Church Events

[TDOR: Transgender Day of Remembrance](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 6pm in the Sanctuary. The LGBTQ+ Community and Allies will gather to mourn the lives lost due to transphobia with a candle vigil, explore the journey and possibilities today, share current experiences. This is a community event that welcomes, includes, and invites allies to be a part of TDOR. Doors open at 6pm. Program Begins at 6:30pm. Dessert reception to follow. This service includes: Rev. Michelle LaGrave, First Unitarian Church, Mayor's Proclamation, River City Mixed Chorus-River's Edge, Candle Lighting/US Names Shared, and various presenters. See flyer on page 7.

First Steps Class

Sunday, Nov. 25 at 11:45am in the Merritt Lounge. You are invited to join us as we gather together to get acquainted with the basics of Unitarian Universalism and our vibrant community. See page 15.

WAYS TO HELP: YES Meal Prep

Monday, Nov. 26 at 9am in the kitchen. See page 13 for details.

Book Club

Monday, Nov. 26 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. We will discuss *Justice on Earth* by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom. Questions? Email: drichardson821@gmail.com.

Taoism Discussion Group

Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. 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. For more information, contact Geoff at gerickson03@gmail.com.

[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 are

reading *Birth of a White Nation; the Invention of White People and its Relevance Today* by Jacqueline Battalora. For questions, please contact Linda Parker at lparkerlib@gmail.com.

Dharma Chautauqua Meeting

Every Thursday, 6pm to 7:30pm, in the Whitney Young Classroom. More info can be found online: dharmachautauqua.drycreekhost.net/.

Bridge Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the Conference Room at 11:30am. Contact Scott Kemper at scott.kemper@gmail.com.

YRUU (Youth Group) *Meets every Wednesday at 7pm in the Common Room.*

Choir Rehearsals

Every Wednesday at 7pm in the Sanctuary. For more info, email: choirdirector@firstuomaha.org.

Parent's Choice Listening Circle

Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:45am in the Merritt Lounge. For questions or to join, please contact Sarah Eades Hamilton (402-306-6339) seades.hamilton@gmail.com.

AHA Listening Circle-- Open to new members!

Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:45am in the Merritt Lounge. We will deepen our understanding of our personal Atheist, Humanist, and Agnostic values through readings, listening and discussion which will help to enhance the UU experience for those who attend. Please contact AHA@firstuomaha.org.

[Future Events](#)

Teams Meeting

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2pm in the Common Room. These meetings are for Team Leaders and volunteers to discuss future plans for the church. All are welcome. If you have an agenda item for this meeting, please email the Ministry Team Council (MTC) at mtc@firstuomaha.org.

World AIDS Day Service

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. More details will be shared in the enews. Our event partner is Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Holiday Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 8 with social hour at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm. The dinner will be catered by Pleasure Your Palette. The reservation form is on page 6. RSVP by 11/30.

CUUPS Yule Ritual

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6pm in the Common Room. Please join us for our Yule ritual, as led by Denise Allain and Klyde Warren, as we celebrate the victory over the long nights with the warmth from our hearts, and the arrival of warmer and longer days ahead. Please arrive no earlier than 6pm, no later than 6:15. Ritual starts at 6:30pm. Potluck to follow—please bring a dish to share. Childcare available.

Chili Cook-Off—Save the date!

Saturday, Jan. 26 at 5:30pm. More info will be shared next month.

See page 13 for Ways You Can Help and Get Involved at Church!

[Outside Opportunities](#)

International Education Speaker Series features Sarah Stillman.

Thursday, 11/15 at 7pm at Creighton University. Go here for details: <http://calendar.creighton.edu/event?id=59567>

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov. 18 at 5pm at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church (2650 Farnam Street). There is a pizza party for the youth at 3:30pm and a dessert reception follows the service. For details, go here: www.kmlchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/October-2018-Good-News.pdf.

Annual Holiday Dinner

Saturday, December 8 in the Common Room

Social Hour at 5:30pm; Dinner at 6:30pm

A fabulous, delectable menu prepared by Pleasure Your Palette
(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, November 30.**

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. Michelle LaGrave at minister@firstuuomaha.org or 402-345-3039 ext. 102.



7TH ANNUAL

Transgender Day of Remembrance

T D O R

OMAHA

First Unitarian Church of Omaha 31st & Harney

Tuesday 11-20-18 | 6:30PM

FOR INFORMATION VISIT www.tdoromaha.com

A Note on Call-Out Culture

by Asam Ahmad

From an article in *Briarpatch Magazine*

Call-out culture refers to the tendency among progressives, radicals, activists, and community organizers to publicly name instances or patterns of oppressive behavior and language use by others. People can be called out for statements and actions that are sexist, racist, ableist, and the list goes on. Because call-outs tend to be public, they can enable a particularly armchair and academic brand of activism: one in which the act of calling out is seen as an end in itself.

What makes call-out culture so toxic is not necessarily its frequency so much as the nature and performance of the call-out itself. Especially in online venues like Twitter and Facebook, calling someone out isn't just a private interaction between two individuals: it's a public performance where people can demonstrate their wit or how pure their politics are. Indeed, sometimes it can feel like the performance itself is more significant than the content of the call-out. This is why "calling in" has been proposed as an alternative to calling out: calling in means speaking privately with an individual who has done some wrong, in order to address the behavior without making a spectacle of the address itself.

In the context of call-out culture, it is easy to forget that the individual we are calling out is a human being, and that different human beings in different social locations will be receptive to different strategies for learning and growing. For instance, most call-outs I have witnessed immediately render anyone who has committed a perceived wrong as an outsider to the community. One action becomes a reason to pass judgment on someone's entire being, as if there is no difference between a community member or friend and a random stranger walking down the street.

(This article was an insert in the order of service for October 21st.)

First Unitarian Church Right Relations Team

By Nadine Keith, Right Relations Chair

The board had appointed an interim Right Relations Team to develop a plan and process for encouraging safe, respectful and appropriate communication, healthy debate and collaboration within the congregation. Responsibilities will include providing training in compassionate communication.

Rev. Michelle defines Right Relations as "a spiritual practice holding each other's inherent worth and dignity in all aspects of congregational life".

The team consists of Della Bynum, Carol Cronin, Nadine Keith (chair), Mark Loscutoff, and Tom Seguin (board liaison).

A process for implementation and a congregational Covenant of Right Relations will be presented to the congregation.

Finance Matters

By Walt Jesteadt, Treasurer

Last month's Finance Matters reviewed the various categories of church funds and changes facilitated by the recent revisions to the legal document governing the Capital Trust. The Capital Trust is our endowment fund and the changes allow us to use up to 4% of the market value of the fund on Dec. 31 as income for the church year beginning May 1st. By transferring additional money from recent bequests to the Board Investment Account within the Capital Trust, we could have as much as \$40,000 in investment income for next year's budget. This would allow us to include money in the budget for replacement of major items such as an air conditioner or dishwasher rather than relying on non-budget funds. We could also offset some of the loss to our annual stewardship campaigns from not having ongoing contributions from Dick Holland. The goal in having additional investment income would not be major expansion of our programs or a reduction in our pledge goal. The goal would be to have an annual budget that completely covers our true annual costs.

The recent changes in how we view the Capital Trust did not change how we handle bequests, but it might be helpful to review the rules. All of our recent bequests have been made to the First Unitarian Church of Omaha. Those funds are unrestricted and the use of the money is determined by the Board. We are now making an effort to transfer bequest funds to the Capital Trust as part of the Board Investment Account. Money in that account can be withdrawn for use in meeting budget shortfalls or for any other purpose approved by the Board. Although unrestricted funds give us the most flexibility, some members of the Sarah Joslyn Society may wish their bequests to go directly to the Capital Trust, to be withdrawn only with the approval of the congregation. In that case, they should designate the Capital Trust of the First Unitarian Church of Omaha in their wills rather than simply naming the church itself.

Share the Plate 2019 Selections

Every fall, the Ministry Team Council selects the Share the Plate Recipients for the coming year. On Sept. 8, the MTC reviewed the applications and made the selections below.

If you would like to nominate an organization for 2020, please go here for the form:
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/6ac81d_60d1e8c496734397b892cbca2823df70.pdf

2019 Share the Plate

January — [Habitat for Humanity](#)

February — [OTOC \(Omaha Together One Community\)](#)

March — [YES Meals](#) (each month Kim Callaghan and her team make a meal for YES Services)

April — [Black and Pink](#) *

May — [PFLAG](#) (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

June — [NAMI](#) (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

July — [Black and Pink](#) *

August — [Siena/Francis Homeless Shelter](#)

September — [Planned Parenthood](#)

October — [Food Not Bombs](#) *

November — [OTOC](#)

December — [YES](#) (Youth Emergency Services)

* designates a new recipient

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. Knowing how many people are present helps us determine if the sanctuary is too full. Plus, if we notice that someone is missing for a few weeks, our Membership Coordinator Carrie 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!

Inclement Weather Cancellations

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



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 photo. 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 doorbell 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.



Church Directory

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.

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. Or click on the button “directory” on the Quick Links Menu on the home page (bottom left-hand corner) and then enter the password.

If you do not know the members’ area password or your personal information needs updating, please contact Catharine Dixon in the church office. Email: admin@firstuomaha.org or phone: 402-345-3039 ext. 101.

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

A Note About Religious Education

The Coming of Age students this year come from the ranks of our esteemed seventh graders. They are Jackie Petrow, Seth Conner, and Simón Soto-Sanchez. They will be working with mentors from the congregation to discover their own religious credo. Carol Cronin, Ben Wallace, and Denise Allain have volunteered to devote their mentoring skills to these young people. The culmination of their study will be a presentation that they share with the congregation. I am proud of them for stepping up to connect with our congregation.

Our congregation's Justice Makers have inspiring stories for our RE kids. Jeri Thurber helps immigrants through the sanctuary project, Carol Ramsey is working on getting out the vote, Kim Callaghan cooks and serves meals for Youth Emergency services, and Suzanne King teaches non-violent communication to prisoners. There are many others who put their UU beliefs to work.

We give thanks for all the ways we can contribute to making our world a better place. We seek the strength to continue and to celebrate life's goodness.

—Jan Wilson, Director of Religious Education

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. The entrance to the parking garage is on Farnam Street. 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.

Windshield Decals for Church Lot

In an effort to save our church parking for members, visitors, volunteers, and staff, the Ministry Team Council (MTC) has created a windshield decal (see the image at the below).

Beginning in November, we will hand out these window clings/decals to church members and friends.

The decals are small (3in. x 3in.) and can be placed in the front windshield in the top left- or right-hand corner on the inside of the car. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Midtown Crossing shoppers and employees have been parking in the church lot—that causes problems, especially on Sunday mornings and during private wedding ceremonies. Our lot is small and each space is important so we can be welcoming to our visitors.

If you want to leave your car overnight in the church lot, please contact the church office to arrange that.

It's important that all spots are available on Sunday mornings for our members and guests.

Note: We have made an agreement with Alamo Theater to allow their workers to park in our lot during the weekday for the next couple of months. In exchange, Alamo gave the Church a free showing of the film, *The Hate U Give*. If you have questions about parking, please contact the [church office](#).



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. 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: **November 17.**

We will need people to help with desserts, serving and cleaning up. Interested? Need more info? Contact Diane Withem, dianewithem@gmail.com to sign up.

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**. To learn more about OTOC, visit the website: <http://otoc.org/>.

OTOC just held a special event on 10/22. For all the details please go to: otoc.org/225-otoc-leaders-meet-with-7-unicameral-candidates-from-4-districts/?blm_aid=2607105.

BLESSING BAG DAY 2018

By Catharine Dixon, church admin

With the help of many, we were able to put together 100 Blessing Bags for the church office on 10/12. These bags include personal hygiene items, water bottles, and granola bars and other needed things. We give these bags to those who come to the church looking for assistance. Also included in each bag is a printout of our Omaha Area Resource Guide.

Special thanks this year goes to Rae Barry, Kim Callaghan, Deb Duggan, Gary Emenitove, Kay Lynn Goldner, Bebe McCammond, Carolyn McNamara, Donna Neff, Bill Ross, Joe Schaaf, Vanessa Timberlake, Pat Will, and Jan Wilson. We also had anonymous donations made to our collection box—thank you!

Thank you for helping First U help others.

Ways You Can Get Involved

Women's Alliance Bake Sale & Craft Fair

Do you bake, sew, stitch, or paint? Do you make jewelry? What about crocheting? Women's Alliance is currently taking donations to sell at their annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale happening on 11/18. All proceeds go to the Merritt Education Fund. Email kathryn.lewis.kl@gmail.com for more information. See flyer on page 3.

Community Meals

Saturday, Nov. 17, offsite at First Baptist Church. See page 12 for details.

YES Meal Prep in November—Plus Gifts!

Monday, Nov. 26 at 9am in the kitchen. We will serve fried chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy. We're collecting items for their Christmas party. Small gifts, young adult books, gloves/mittens, gift cards would all be welcomed. Want to help? Contact Kim at kjcallaghan@hotmail.com. Every month Kim and her team prepare a meal for Youth Emergency Services (YES). See this website for more info: www.yesomaha.org.

Sunday Sound Team

Did you enjoy the Early Morning Risers last month? Do you want to join EMR but don't sing or cannot play an instrument? Did you know that YOU can still be a key player? How? 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@firsttuomaha.org.

Christmas Decorating-- Helpers Needed

The Holiday Decorating Team is looking for help with decorating the church for Christmas this year! The date to "deck the halls" is **Sunday, December 2** after church and "un-decking" on **Saturday, January 5**. We'll have decorated festive boxes in the foyer to collect mittens, gloves, and hats for the Stephen Center. Please come help us decorate. If you are interested, please contact the church office at admin@firsttuomaha.org.

Not sure how to get involved? Come to the TEAM FAIR happening in the Common Room during coffee hour (11:30am to 12:30pm) on 11/4.

Q: What's a team fair?

A: The best 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! See page 2 for more information. If you can't attend the fair, but still need info, contact admin@firsttuomaha.org.

Another Way to Help: Give a Lift

As our congregation grows, it is apparent that some of us are not able, or reluctant for health or safety reasons, to drive to church. The Caring Team would like to help make it easier for everyone to get to church. As a first step, we will extend an opportunity for those who drive to put themselves on a call list for those wanting a ride.

Now you will find cards in the pews at church on which you can indicate willingness to request or receive a request for a ride. ***For drivers, this is not duty nor a commitment.*** It is simply an indication that we may be willing to give an occasional ride to someone who does not live too far from us, usually in our or an adjacent zip code. We can always decline a request, ***no guilt.*** Sometimes we don't plan to attend church on a particular Sunday. Sometimes we have plans for right after church. Sometimes our car is full. For some of us it is not possible to offer at all because of other church, work, or other commitments. ***Those of us requesting a ride will have a list of several people we can call and understand that sometimes no volunteer driver will be available.***

For safety reasons, we will limit this effort to church members and frequent visitors. We will not ask anyone to pick up strangers to the congregation. We will ask those requesting a ride to church to call by Saturday, so that there are no last-minute requests. At this time, we will limit this effort to church on Sunday rather than extending it to other church activities. However, let's all continue with the informal process of giving rides informally to those who want or need them!

We will be looking at this again in a few months, to see if we are meeting congregational needs. And the Caring Team is interested in your feedback. Send it to louisekjeffrey@hotmail.com.

Call for Designs: Quilted Banner for UUA General Assembly

The Women's Alliance is making a banner for GA next year. We want your input. Designs must contain: a representative image, our church name, established year, and state. The Women's Alliance will review submitted designs and select a final version. Please note that the Women's Alliance reserves the right to combine elements from several submissions. Questions and Submission go to Catherine at catplumtree@gmail.com. Deadline: 11/11.



Halloween Heart & Hand Auction Update

Watch for Auction outcome news. The Auction and November Flame publication coincide, so watch other church news to find out who *won the prizes* for best Halloween costumes and the raffle for Big Bob & the Amazing Animals Basket (worth ~\$200). And how close we came to our goal of raising \$15,000 for the church. We already know the Auction will be a huge success in generating social interactions year round from the parties and events donated! **UNSOLD SEATS FOR AUCTION SOCIAL EVENTS WILL REMAIN ON SALE ON-LINE.** Check the monthly event list and your calendar for continued fun.

Thanks to our generous donors, buyers, and our hard-working volunteers! A special thanks to Kathi Oliver and Ben Wallace, our Auction MCs, and their 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 Team to distribute them. Same with questions about whether guest seats are available for particular events.

*****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. 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@firstuomaha.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 2018 Heart & Hand Auction!

Uniqueness of Gifts

By Donna Tubach Davis, board member

On Sunday, Sept 9th, the church service was water communion. During the service, Rev. Michelle asked congregants to come up to the front of the church to name the gift they give to the church community.

The uniqueness of the gifts is as distinctive as the type of nose or mouth or fingerprint we have.

For some, their gifts are more readily identified than others—gifts in art, music, and oratory are easily recognized. For others, their gifts—not as easily seen—are just as important. Those congregants who visit the sick and infirmed, those who clean the church and fold the programs, those who take care of the garden, those who cook meals, those who are welcoming and friendly to newcomers, and those who give financially.

But what about those who have yet to identify their individual gifts? What do they do? Granted, there are many group, team, and committee opportunities to try out to see if they fit, but that takes a certain amount of pluck and self-confidence to jump in. I would charge all of us to keep our eyes open for the congregants who may not have yet identified where they fit in the church. It is the variety of gifts blended in unity that makes the whole function successfully.

Great Spirit, guide us in our recognition and appreciation of each person’s unique contribution.

New to Our Church?

Join us for an informal introduction to Unitarian Universalism and our community.

The First Steps Class will take place on
Sunday, November 25 at 11:45am
in the Merritt Lounge

If you are interested, RSVP to Carrie at coordinator@firstuomaha.org or stop by the Welcome & Engagement Table (in the Common Room downstairs) on Nov. 25 and we'll get you to the right room. Grab a cup of coffee and we will see you there! If you need childcare to attend, please let Carrie know when you RSVP.



Pathways to Membership—Save these dates!

New session **starting Sunday, January 6, 2019** and running five consecutive Sundays (1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, & 2/3/19) following church service in the Whitney Young Classroom (downstairs by the nursery).

This is a chance to get a more in-depth look at what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. We'll have member-led discussions about the history of our church and the UU church at large, our church governance (the congregation-led church), religious education, elements of worship, and much more!

RSVP by going to our online signup here: www.firstuomaha.org/classup

Or contact Carrie at coordinator@firstuomaha.org.

(Drop-ins are welcome, but to get the most out of the class you'll want to be there for the 5-week course). Hope to see you there!

Learn more about church membership at our website: www.firstuomaha.org/membership.

Anniversary Celebration Recap

On September 30, the church celebrated the Centennial of the dedication of our building which took place on September 29, 1918. The Order of Service was a replica of the original dedication service and much of the music was the same as performed in 1918. This year's version featured "visitors" from 1918 with roles portrayed by current members. The cast included President William Howard Taft (Tim Duggan), who was present at the laying of our cornerstone; Sarah Joslyn (Deb Duggan), a prominent church leader and local philanthropist; Grace Holdrege (Kate Wiig), president of the Women's Alliance at the critical time just prior to the construction of the church; and William Baxter (Dave Richardson), president of the Board of Trustees. The congregation then rededicated the church using the same words as in 1918. The service was followed with a celebration in the common room where we toasted the past and the future of First Unitarian Church. Photos of this event were taken by Ellen Shurson, Bob Hess, and Scott Kemper. To see more photos, please go to: www.firstuomaha.org/photosanny. To read more about all the anniversary gatherings and projects, go here: www.firstuomaha.org/anniversary.



Stories from 100 Years Ago

The Heritage Task Force asked for church member family stories about events happening in 1918. We received two stories from Harriet Major and Marie Sedlacek which are shared below. We thank them for sharing their stories.

My father, Alfred Bihler, volunteered for service in the Army during World War I. He was a private, and he was honorably discharged after several months because of a hip injury. During this brief period of service, he established a friendship with a Bill R., also a private in the Army. During this war, there was a popular song, *My Buddy*, which described his friendship with Bill R. My brother, although named for my father, always went by the name, Bud or Buddy, in remembrance of my dad's relationship with Bill R. These two men never saw each other after the war and didn't maintain any contact. However, Bill R. sent my father a beautiful three-piece version of Les Misérables shortly after the war ended. Although the set is somewhat worn after these many years, its beauty is still there with the elegant leather covers, the gold leaf paper edges, and the delicate, fine paper. I still have this lovely memento and treasure it as a precious memory of a relationship between two young men who together survived the trauma of a war.

My maternal grandmother, Mary Sehested Schultz, was a strong Baptist woman who came to our country at the age of 18. As I understand it, Baptist folks at the time were, and still are, very much anti-liquor, and my Grandmother was a strong advocate of this position. As it happened, she was one of the victims of the flu epidemic in 1918 and was close to death from this disease. My parents lived with my Grandparents briefly after my father was discharged from the Army, and my Grandmother claimed that he saved her life with his recipe for a very strong liquor hot toddy that he prepared for her more than several times. Interesting to me how life can change some of our strongest beliefs when we deem them necessary.

—Harriet Major

My mom, Victory Pták, was born in Omaha on November 12, 1918, the day after Armistice was declared. So, of course, her parents named her "Victory" not Victoria. Her family lived on South 13th Street a few blocks north of Missouri Avenue. Her parents were Czech immigrants from Bohemia, were surrounded by Czech families and active in the Czech community that thrived further north on 13th Street between Sokol Hall and William Streets. Her parents and extended family supported US expat movement to bring about the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

The Spanish Influenza of 1918 was sickening and killing people world-wide and South 13th Street was not spared. The family doctor then was Dr. Olga Šťastný. Also, a Czech immigrant, she was one of the few women practicing medicine at the time. Dr. Šťastný received her medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical School in 1913.

The story goes that my grandmother, Mary Pták, became ill after my mother was born (a touch of the dreaded flu?) and was taking some medicine. Subsequently, my grandmother asked Dr. Šťastný to check on baby Victory. Little Victory was sleeping all the time. Of course, the baby was being breast fed. On checking the medicine or tonic that grandmother was taking; Dr. Šťastný pronounced that it was not surprising that the baby slept all the time. The medicine was mostly alcohol. The joke in the family was that mother was drunk as a baby. Certainly not an acceptable situation and cause for alarm in our day. But that was 1918. Grandmother and my mother survived. Both lived long, good lives.

If you are interested, here is a link to a bio of Dr. Šťastný. I remember mom pointing out Dr. Šťastný's home/office on South 16th Street. Go here: www.amwa-doc.org/wwibios/dr-olga-stastny/

—Marie Sedlacek

Interim Minister

Rev. Michelle LaGrave
minister@firstuuomaha.org

Director of Religious Education

Jan Wilson
dre@firstuuomaha.org

Membership Coordinator

Carrie Helmberger
coordinator@firstuuomaha.org

Church Administrator

Catharine Dixon
admin@firstuuomaha.org

Choir Director

William Miller
choirdirector@firstuuomaha.org

Organist

Pat Will

Choir Accompanist

J. Gawf

EMR Director

Stan Harper

Minister Emeriti

Ronald Knapp
 Frank Rivas

Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Laudi
childcare@firstuuomaha.org

Custodian

Bobby Medrano

THE FLAME

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

Editor/Designer: Cat Dixon

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

Flame Mailing Team:

Debbie Hunsberger, Lois Norris,
 Linda Hruska, Kim Callaghan

Meet Our Leaders

Board Members

Maria Wallace (President), Joe Schaaf (President-Elect), Catherine Plumlee (Secretary), Sharon Piehler, Floyd Prine, Carol Ramsey, Tom Seguin, Donna Tubach Davis
 Email: board@firstuuomaha.org

Trustees of the Capital Trust

Ellen Shurson (2019), Daniel Byrd (2020), Bob Hess (2021)

Ministry Team Council

Dave Richardson, Joe Schaaf, Katie Zimmer, Rev. Michelle LaGrave
 Email: mtc@firstuuomaha.org

Nominating Committee

Royal Carleton, Kate Godfrey, Kathy Oliver, Carol Ramsey, Marie Sedlacek, Ben Wallace

Ministry Teams and Team Leaders

AHA—Sheri Conner
 Archives/Heritage Task Force—Dave Richardson & Janet West
 Baby Welcoming Team—Becca Hatcher, Katrina Schmidt, & Sara Switzer
 Black Lives Matter—Rene Harper
 Caring—Louise Jeffrey
 Chalice Guild—Kay Lynn Goldner
 Community Meals—Diane Withem
 CUUPS—Steve Switzer
 Early Morning Risers—Mary Kay Peters & Sarah Copeland
 Fellowship Team—Judith Wright, Nadine Keith & Nellie Chenoweth
 Finance Team—Walt Jesteadt
 Forums—open
 Garden—Sharon Conlon
 Governance—Kim Dunovan
 Fundraising Team—Donna Neff & Katrina Schmidt
 Hope in Action—Kim Dunovan
 Hospitality Teams—open
 House and Grounds Team—open
 Listening Circles—Katrina Schmidt
 Membership Team—Mike McAtee & Janet West
 Midtown Helping Hands—open
 Office Team—open
 Omaha Together One Community—Janet West
 Partner Church Team—Janet West
 Recycling Coordinator—Jeri Thurber
 Right Relations—Nadine Keith
 Social Justice Coordinator—Peg Pidgeon
 Soul Matters—Michael McAtee
 Stewardship Team—Mary Kay Peters & Peg Pidgeon
 Wayside Pulpit—Kim Dunovan
 Women's Alliance—Catherine Plumlee
 Worship Arts Team—Denise Allain
 Young Adult Group—Taylor & Jessica Eman
 YRUU—Jessica & Taylor Eman & Tom Seguin

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

www.firstuuomaha.org

402-345-3039

Cover photo by Errol Waits. Thanks to Gary Emenitove for suggesting this photo.

Church Events

CommUUnty Night

Friday, Nov. 2 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Private Wedding

Saturday, Nov. 3 at 4pm.

Daylight Savings Time—11/4

Fall back one hour. See page 2.

Team Fair

Sunday, Nov. 4 during Coffee Hour. See page 2.

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, Nov. 4 at noon in the Whitney Young Classroom. See page 4.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Nov. 5 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Election Day—

Church as Polling Place

Tuesday, Nov. 6. If you visit the church that day, please park in the Midtown Crossing Parking Garage if able.

Compassionate Communication Group

Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 4.

AHA! “Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics!” Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Private Wedding

Saturday, Nov. 10 at 3pm.

Parents of Preschoolers (POPS)

Saturday, Nov. 10 at 5:45pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

3F Book Bonanza Group

Friday, Nov. 9 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 4.

Leadership Talk Back

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 11:30am in the Common Room. See page 4.

CUUPS Business Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 6pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Women's Alliance

Monday, Nov. 12 in the Common Room. See page 4.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 7pm in the Common Room.

The Flame Newsletter Deadline

Nov. 15 at noon.

Women's Religious Covenant Group

Thursday, Nov. 15 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 4.

Private Wedding

Friday, Nov. 16 at 5pm.

WAYS TO HELP:

Community Meals

Saturday, Nov. 17, offsite at First Baptist Church. See page 12.

Friends Giving Potluck

Saturday, Nov. 17 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Women's Alliance Bake Sale & Craft Fair

Sunday, Nov. 18 during Coffee Hour. See pages 3 and 4.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Nov. 19 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR)

Tuesday, Nov. 20. See pages 5 and 7.

Church Office Closed 11/21-11/23

First Steps Class

Sunday, Nov. 25 at 11:45am in the Whitney Young Room. See page 15.

WAYS TO HELP: YES Meal Prep

Monday, Nov. 26 at 9am in the kitchen. See page 13.

Book Club

Monday, Nov. 26 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5.

Taoism Discussion Group

Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

Recurring...

Bridge Group

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

Parents Listening Circle

Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month. See page 5.

AHA Listening Circle

Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month. See page 5.

YRUU (Youth Group) Meetings

Wednesdays at 7pm in the Common Room.

Choir Rehearsals

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

Women's Religious Studies Group

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

Dharma Chautauqua

Every Thursday, 6pm to 7:30pm, in the Whitney Young Classroom. See page 5.

Soul Matters Small Groups

Various meeting dates. See here:

www.firstuomaha.org/soulmatters

Future Events...

Teams Meeting

Saturday Dec. 1 at 2pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

World AIDS Day Service

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. See page 5.

Holiday Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 8 at 5:30pm. Reservation form on page 6.

CUUPS Yule Ritual

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

Chili Cook-Off—Save the date!

Saturday, Jan. 26 at 5:30pm. More info will be shared next month.

Social Media & First U

Find our public Facebook page here:

www.facebook.com/firstuomaha/

Find us on Twitter here:

[@FirstUUOmaha](https://twitter.com/FirstUUOmaha)

Be sure to like the church and follow us!

Women's Alliance Bake & Craft Sale

Sunday, November 18

during coffee hour

Get all the sweet treats & goodies!



See page 3 for details.

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

www.firstuomaha.org