

Winter | 2022

Chalice Connection

A quarterly publication
of The First Unitarian
Church of Omaha

Volume 3 Issue 1



**In this issue,
we explore
Widening the
Circle.**

**Join us this
Sunday in person
or online at
10:30am**

**Mission of First Unitarian Church of Omaha:
Fostering the Whole Person, Compassion, and Justice**

www.firstuomaha.org

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Widening Our Circles of Support

by Rev. Shari Woodbury



Are you lonely? Do you feel more set apart from community since pre-COVID times? Do you miss past friendships or crave more connection in your life? If so, you are (ironically) not alone.

A fall 2021 Harvard report captures how the epidemic of loneliness that already existed in the U.S. before has increased substantially since the pandemic began. Loneliness among elders has long been a concern. The report found that now, more than 60% of young adults age 18-25 suffer serious loneliness, as do over 50% of mothers of young children. And middle-aged adults in the throes of family life are not immune either; one can be busy working and caring for others, and yet lack social supports for oneself.

Even when you have plenty of time and have figured out how to safely connect with others during this COVID era – a moving target – you may find your social skills have atrophied, or that being around people kicks up anxiety. I get it. As hard as loneliness can be, building relationships takes energy too. It can feel easier just to stay in our cocoons. But each of us needs – and deserves – real, fulfilling connections with other people.

I hope that the church can be a place for you to build supportive relationships. By your involvement, you can widen your own circle to include people with diverse life experiences, and shared liberal religious values. Attending worship regularly, whether online or in person,

can help you feel a part of a community of care.

Small groups, for many people, are where the deeper connections happen. On the next page, you'll see listed some of the church groups where such connections are forged. It's not easy putting yourself out there. But as I tell my 6th grader (and sometimes, myself!), building friendships is worth the investment... on the other side of the awkwardness we sometimes have to move through, lies trust and comfort and having fun with others.

As you start the new year, I invite you to consider what you want when it comes to social connections and supportive community. Might any of the groups here help meet your needs? Or if you would like to start something new – a knitting circle, a men's group, an arts outings club, [your interest here](#) – please reach out to me or to Carrie Helmberger, our Membership Coordinator, to help you get it started. You will likely be offering a lifeline to others, at the same time that you bring more joy and connection into your own life.

In community –

Shari

PS – If you are coping with anxiety, depression, or other difficulties, and are interested in professional support, please know I am available for pastoral care, and can offer referrals to trustworthy therapists. No one should have to struggle alone.

How to Reach Rev. Shari Woodbury

Email: minister@firstuomaha.org

Church phone: (402) 345-3039 ext. 102 (forwards to her cell)

Cell phone: (531) 600-8313

She typically checks email on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. For a pastoral emergency any day, please call or text her cell phone.

To schedule an appointment, go to: <https://calendly.com/rev-woodbury>

List of Active Church Groups

3F Book Bonanza Group: This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Merritt Lounge at 7pm to discuss novels they've read. If you're interested, please contact Sheri Conner at ksvortex@msn.com.

AHA (Atheist, Humanist, Agnostic) Group: This group meets quarterly on Zoom to discuss a variety of issues. Special guest speakers, including Rev. Woodbury, have been a part of these events. To learn more, email Jaime Alexander at AHA@firstuomaha.org.

The Book Club: This group meets once a month via Zoom to discuss a book chosen by the club. In the past, this group met in person, and may go back to that soon. Contact Dave Richardson at drichardson821@gmail.com.

Compassionate Communication Group: This group meets via Zoom on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7pm. Using Compassionate Communication, developed by Marshall Rosenberg, PhD, we learn to connect with ourselves and others with empathy. Learning to communicate more compassionately, like speaking a new language, takes practice. If you want to attend this class via Zoom, contact Suzanne at nvcsuz@gmail.com for details.

CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans): This group meets monthly, both on Zoom and in person, to host rituals and social events. To learn more, contact Rosharra and Chynna at cuups@firstuomaha.org.

Morning Reflections: This group meets online, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:15am to 8:45am. Join church members Kim Dunovan and Sharon Conlon for a period of reflection and silent meditation/prayer on Zoom. Whether you're seeking a regular spiritual practice, or just wake-up some mornings needing a little extra support and connection to our church community. This is an informal drop-in and all are welcome! Each gathering will open with a short reading, followed by reflections and time for silent meditation/prayer. Questions? Email: kimberly.dunovan@gmail.com.

OTOC (Omaha Together One Community): OTOC is a local Omaha organization that "teaches people to become effective leaders, while exploring their legitimate interests, doing solid research, engaging in tough, but always respectful public discourse, holding elected officials accountable and creating positive change through collective action." There are different groups in OTOC focused on various issues including the Raise-the-Wage Campaign, housing, daycare and early education issues, immigration reform, and environmental sustainability. If interested, please go to this webpage www.firstuomaha.org/otoc or contact Sharon Conlon at sharonconlon@msn.com.

Sanctuary Singers: The choir is again rehearsing and performing and looking for new members. See page 13 in this issue to learn more.

Side With Love: This new group focused on social action is looking for new members. See page 12 in this issue to learn more.

Sister Church: This team has helped grow our partnership with Clair Memorial United Methodist Church here in Omaha. Special projects include fundraisers for books and food pantry donation drives. This team is also focused on the 8th Principle and brought in Paula Cole Jones (developer of the 8th Principle) via Zoom to lead a Sunday worship service and a special workshop. To learn more, email sisterchurch@firstuomaha.org.

Soul Matters: These groups are small, relational groups made up of six to ten people led by facilitators. They meet monthly to establish and nurture themselves in this community and to explore different topics. Some of our groups meet in person while others continue on Zoom. If you're interested in joining a small group, please contact the church office or go to this webpage: www.firstuomaha.org/soulmatters.

Widening the Circle Discussion Group: Schedule: Two Sundays a month (1st and 3rd) from 3-4:30pm in the Common Room. *The Widening the Circle of Concern Report* of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change was mentioned as recommended reading by Paula Cole Jones at her recent 8th Principle workshop. She recommends that all congregations devote resources and intentional effort to understanding the information contained in the report, with the hope that it might redeem the essential ideals and promises of Unitarian Universalism as a sustaining faith for all. Our discussion group, led by Mary Kay Peters and Della Bynum, will be following a Study Guide published by the UUA. The study guide is broken up into 11 sections. Questions? Email Mary Kay at mkpnet11@gmail.com.

Continued on next page

List of Active Church Groups Continued

The Women's Religious Studies Group: This group meets online weekly at 1pm on Thursdays via Zoom. This group is reading *The Power of Myth* by Joseph Campbell. For more information, contact Marcia at mkleise@cox.net.

Hiking Club: This small group meets at nearby parks and hiking trails. For more information, email Mary Kay at mkpnet11@gmail.com.

Opportunity to help at church: Greeters! Every Sunday, we have two people at the front door to greet, to collect the offering from the offering boxes, and to help us promote social distancing in the pews. Sign up online or contact Carrie at coordinator@firstuomaha.org. We will make sure you're trained and ready to go for the Sunday service. Online sign-up sheet here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040849a5a82ba2fd0-usher>.

Opportunity to help at church: Teachers! We are welcoming adult volunteers (parents AND non-parents) to work with all age levels of our Sunday morning RE programs. Please contact Christina Strong if you are interested at dre@firstuomaha.org.

Is a group missing? Don't see a group that fits your interest? Contact the church office to start a new group or fill out the form here: www.firstuomaha.org/newteamform. Please note that all groups/teams must be approved by the Ministry Team Council (MTC).

You can see a complete list of teams and groups at our webpage here: www.firstuomaha.org/programs.

If you're reading this, please email or call the [church office](#) to let Cat know. We'd like to know who is reading this magazine.

NOTICE OF THE MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Sunday, January 9, 2022

The Board of Trustees would like to invite you to our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 11am. This meeting will follow a short worship service beginning at 10:30am. The tradition of a mid-year meeting began two years ago to check in with the congregation and bring forth new business that the Board, the Ministry Team Council (MTC), and other leadership are working on more routinely rather than just once a year. We seek your input and welcome discussion.

This meeting will also begin the Nominating Committee's solicitation for award nominees and future leaders. The leadership slate will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in the spring. If you can't attend this January meeting, but would like to nominate a member for a leadership role or an award, you can go online to make your nomination here: www.firstuomaha.org/nominating.

If you plan to join us in person, please remember to mask and to practice social distancing. We'll also offer an online streaming option as we have throughout the pandemic. We encourage your participation. If you have questions, please contact the Board at board@firstuomaha.org or call the church office.

Chalice Connection

Editor: Catharine Dixon; **Proofreaders:** Scott Kemper, Suzanne King, Lois Norris, & Carolyn McNamara
Submit articles, poems, photos to admin@firstuomaha.org. **Word count limit:** 1,000 words. If your plan involves a longer piece, please contact the office. **Notes:** 1. Articles will be approved by the Editor, the Office Team, and in some cases in conjunction with the staff and MTC. 2. All articles will be subject to editing. 3. Articles must comply with the First Unitarian Communication Policy. More information can be obtained by emailing the church office.

Technology and Our Church

By Stephanie Lewis, church member

How do you feel about computers? Do you find them fascinating? Are you the type who builds their own gaming rig, scouring New Egg for deals on graphics cards? Or are you the type who regards computers as necessary but confusing, distasteful screens? Maybe you are like me: somewhere in the middle. When it comes to technology, we've learned a lot together this past year and a half. I know it took more than a few people outside of their comfort zones to navigate Zoom.

It was outside of my comfort zone too! Professionally, I am an Information Systems Security Manager. Emphasis on the word, *manager*. I'm learning right along with everyone else about all the techie stuff. Still, we did it. We learned a new thing. We kept church going when we couldn't be together. Phase 1 complete. Now, it's time to talk about Phase 2, *Operation: The Future is Now*.

The first few Sundays we opened back up saw some lonely pews. But over the weeks, more and more people have filled those seats. Still, I don't think we will ever go back to the days when we didn't have the option to view church remotely. There will always be people who want to join us, but can't physically be at the church. Even when the pandemic is a distant memory, there will be people who don't feel well, don't have a ride that day, are out of town, or myriad other reasons someone cannot get to 3114 Harney Street. The objective of *Operation: The Future is Now* is to find a permanent solution for those who need remote church even after we are fully open.

When it comes to deciding on more permanent solutions, there are a few things we, the Tech Task Force know and a few things we don't. We know that people want to be able to watch video of the church service later if they miss that Sunday entirely. So, we need to be able to reliably record, store, and share video. We know that people want to be able to share Joys and Concerns. So, we have to be able to get that information to Rev. Shari during the service from the people viewing remotely. We know that we will want to collaborate with Second Unitarian Church again in the future, and we know that we have enjoyed having remote speakers present to the in-house congregation.

Here is what we don't know: would people be willing to forgo the level of interactivity that Zoom provides? How do people feel about breakout rooms? Have they developed routines/friendships/a sense of connection around those breakout rooms? How familiar is the congregation with other streaming platforms such as YouTube? How does the congregation want technology to serve our community? The Zoom vs YouTube conversation we've been having with each other really boils down to finding that balance between interactivity and quality of video and sound. Finding that balance is going to be difficult and will likely require a good deal of trial and error... and patience.

Technology has been involved with various churches for a long, long time. The first televised church service was in the 1950s. The TV network EWTN has been airing Catholic Mass every Sunday since 1981. But technology cannot be used exactly the same way in every context, in every congregation. It is a tool that must work within a culture to work for us.

There are local churches that have been airing services using a webcam being controlled by the pastors themselves. There are megachurches with satellite campuses that air a live taping of the lead pastor who is speaking from miles away. There are rock bands, giant screens, small discrete laptops hidden in the backs of rooms, webcams stacked on books, and professional video cameras on tripods.

Where do we fit in to the mix? What level of technology is appropriate for the culture of our church? We, the Tech Task Force have to be in constant conversation with you, the congregation. We welcome your feedback. Email us, chat with us after services, tell us what has been good and what can be better. Together, we will continue to try to find solutions that work for us and *Operation: The Future is Now* will be a resounding success. Email the tech team here: techies@firstuomaha.org.

Preserve Our Building (POB) Fund Drive Coming Out of Hibernation by Jaime Alexander, church member

Hello Church Members and Friends,

Our annual Preserve Our Building fund drive is returning this month, January 2022. Most of our congregation will likely recall the POB drive occurring every January, but skipped last year on account of the many COVID-related complications. Those newer to our congregation may wonder what is POB? Return with me to the year 2005. I recall sitting in our beautifully just refurbished sanctuary made possible by a couple of very large donations, and wondering how can we possibly maintain this beauty and refurbish as necessary. After some discussions and visioning the Preserve Our Building fund drive was born.



Preserve Our Building has developed into a plan for the proceeds from an annual fund drive to be put into an investment account. To assure that funds aren't diverted for some other need sometime in the future we stipulate that approval by vote at a congregational meeting is required to spend funds from this account. The Board currently assigns the Preserve Our Building drive to January. Gosh that's now! Please give generously, as you can.

When considering how much to give, I decided enough to make me feel good about it and still look forward to feeling good again next year. When you make your decision, please consider the importance of a large number of us giving. Many donations added together each year will over time allow us to Preserve Our Building.

In an effort to reduce expenses, this letter in the quarterly church magazine replaces the previously mailed individual letters with return envelopes. So please donate by whatever process you prefer, but be sure to clearly designate that it is for POB. In one other procedural point, I am happy to announce that Diane Withem has joined me on the Preserve Our Building Team.

Thank you all for giving generously.

Your POB team,

Jaime Alexander
Diane Withem

“Growing Up Partisan, but Polite”

by Dave Richardson, church member

I need to start with a disclaimer and a true confession of what could be considered a serious misdeed (well sort of.) The disclaimer is that this is not a political polemic. Yes, I will refer to some autobiographical items that reference my party affiliations and my politically partisan parents, and how they helped me become a juvenile policy wonk (which is I suppose less dangerous than becoming a juvenile delinquent), and how they helped shape my vision of my obligations as a citizen, a community member, and an activist.



Yes, we were a “partisan” family. I was raised by three “New Deal Democrats” if you count my beloved late Aunt Marge. They were all very active Democrats. My father used to say, “I am a Presbyterian by birth and a Democrat by virtue of good judgment.” I like to say, “I am a Democrat by birth and a Unitarian by virtue of good judgment.”

So here is my true confession: **I have committed voter fraud!** I hasten to add I was an eight-year-old and my accomplice was my beloved Aunt Marge. As a youngster, I was imbued with the sense of the importance of voting and public service in general and that meant that these democratic ideals must be done with integrity and intelligence. Now, the story of my crime.

On Election Day in November of 1952, my Aunt Marge asked me if I wanted to accompany her to the polls. Being that wonky eight-year-old, this was like asking most kids if they wanted to go out for ice cream. I accompanied her right up to the voting booth, and when she asked me, “Do you want to mark my ballot?” I couldn’t believe my ears! She lifted me up so I could see the ballot on the little metal shelf in the booth and I marked an “X” next to Adlai Stevenson’s name, knowing full well that was my aunt’s preference. I was ecstatic! This still is one of my fondest childhood memories. Largely because I was raised to believe in the importance and the sacred duty of voting.

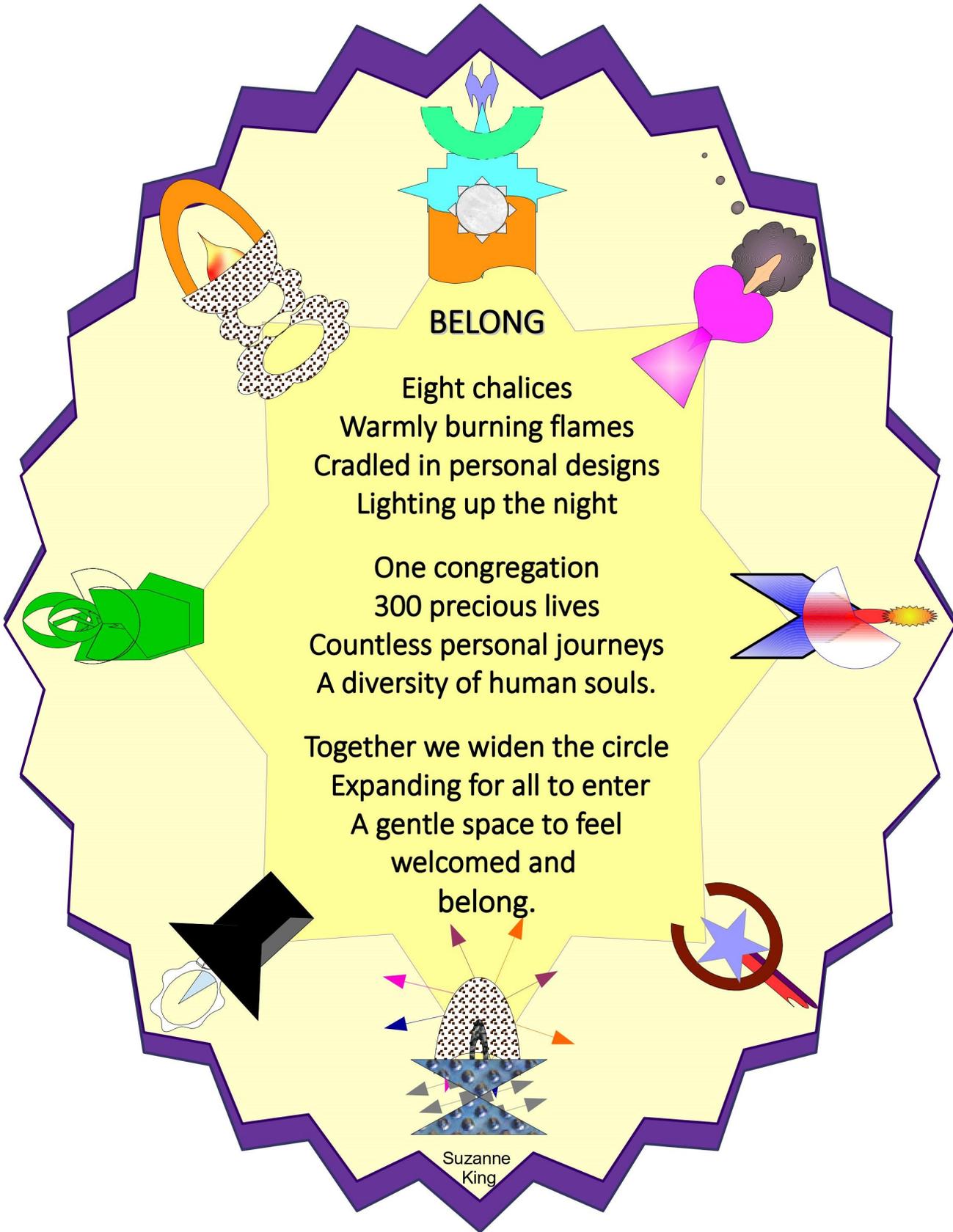
I still believe in that sacred duty. I realize now that back in those “halcyon days” many Americans were denied the right to vote. Now we are witnessing devious attempts to once again deny voting rights based on false claims.

Being partisan means something very different these days. Today, partisan politics has taken on a whole new face. Certainly, politics can be a “rough and tumble” arena, but it doesn’t mean we have to resort to the bitter, deceitful, ad hominem attacks we see too often. I long for the inspiring and eloquent rhetoric I grew up with. I know the past cannot be recreated. Or as the expression goes, “Nostalgia ain’t what it used to be.”

I do, however, sincerely hope that we can revisit those ideas of “civic responsibility” and “sacred duty” that seemed to be more prevalent in the days when my aunt let me mark her ballot. Only this time let’s make that sacred duty more equitable and accessible to everyone.



"Ellen and John Walking Dalmatians" by Jan Wilson



BELONG

Eight chalices
Warmly burning flames
Cradled in personal designs
Lighting up the night

One congregation
300 precious lives
Countless personal journeys
A diversity of human souls.

Together we widen the circle
Expanding for all to enter
A gentle space to feel
welcomed and
belong.

Suzanne
King

Heart & Hand Auction Recap

by The Auction Team, Taylor Eman and Sara Switzer

A big thanks to everyone who helped make the Heart and Hand auction a great success! From our generous donors to our wonderful bidders and to everyone who showed up at our Zoom after-party, YOU are all a part of what made the auction a success.

Together, we raised \$6,759.50 for the church operating budget and we certainly could not have done it without you. A large congratulations goes to the winners of our costume competition. In "Movie Madness" we had Rev. Shari Woodbury as an oompa loompa, in "Posh Pets" we had Lion-O as the cat bus *from My Neighbor Totoro*, in "Spook's Choice" we had Robby as Pikachu, and in our special "Haunted House" category, we had Terri Lynn Brewer's house! See some photos below. We do still have a few open seats for some select events. Go here: <https://tinyurl.com/39h39jbn>.

Bidder statements and donor receipts have been emailed. If you did not get yours, please either check your spam folder, or if it is not there, email auction@firsttuomaha.org. Thank you!



What is “Beloved Community”?

Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, abilities, sexual orientation backgrounds/identities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world.

Taken from www.8thprincipleuu.org/what-is-beloved-community

Need Help to Get Vaccinated?

Is transportation, securing an appointment, or some other obstacle standing between you and getting vaccinated? If so, please reach out to rides@firstuomaha.org or call the church office. We don't want anyone seeking a vaccine to have to go without due to such barriers. Caring volunteers are ready to help.

Church YouTube Channel

Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCq3uthKVVYfWS55zpRTv8LA) if you'd like to receive notifications of future streamed services and recordings.

Go [here](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq3uthKVVYfWS55zpRTv8LA) (www.youtube.com/channel/UCq3uthKVVYfWS55zpRTv8LA) and click the **Subscribe** button.

You may have to train your email program to put these in your primary inbox rather than in spam or secondary folders.

What is the 8th Principle?

The 8th Principle reads:

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Why now?

The UUA went through a crisis related to inclusive hiring practices, especially related to whites being hired over highly qualified Latinx candidates, resulting in the resignation of the UUA President in 2017. You can read more about that here: www.uuworld.org/articles/peter-morales-resigns.

In response to this crisis, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and Diverse Revolutionary UU Multi-Cultural Ministries (DRUUMM) endorsed the 8th Principle. BLUU's main point is that the UUA voted in 1997 at General Assembly to commit to intentionally becoming an ARAOMC (anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multi-cultural) institution. Initially good progress was made, with programs including the Journey Toward Wholeness, the Jubilee Anti-Racism Training workshops, process evaluation at meetings, and multicultural consulting services. In the early 2000s, funding and support for much of this work began to decline.

Why another principle?

Our existing 7 principles *imply* this 8th principle, but do not *explicitly* hold us accountable for addressing these oppressions directly, especially at the *systemic* level. The UU Principles were designed to be *dynamic*, not a fixed creed. We want to continue to educate ourselves, exploring truth, and raising our consciousness.

What does it mean to be held accountable?

White UUs hold themselves accountable to communities of color, to make sure whites do what they say they will do. In practice, that can mean having a People of Color Caucus within congregations, districts, etc., to discern and express needs and concerns to the rest of the community. Black UUs hold each other accountable and help each other see and dismantle signs of internalized racism. We need an *effective* mechanism or structure to ensure this. Similarly for other oppressions.

These paragraphs were taken from <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>. Go to that website to learn about the history of this movement and why many UU churches have adopted the 8th Principle.

Side With Love Social Action Team — New Team, New Webpage!

Side with Love Social Action Team has a mission to create more pathways for members to live our values through civic engagement with local, national and international issues. Mindful of our status as a Welcoming Congregation, and the overwhelming congregational vote in support of Black Lives Matter, Side with Love Team is initially focusing on anti-racism and equity for LGBTQIA+ people, with a deep commitment to hold ourselves accountable to the marginalized communities who are most adversely affected by the current systems we are working to change. We also intend to build on the success of First Unitarian's UUtheVote project to increase participation in the democratic process.

Our Side with Love team is part of a denomination-wide Side with Love campaign to organize and elevate the voice of UUs across the country to build more just, democratic and sustainable communities. (Go here to learn more about the national campaign <https://sidewithlove.org>.) Side with Love (Social Justice) Team intends to be a vehicle to promote awareness, as well as offering a mix of study and action, around the issues our church community is most passionate about. Action may include letter writing, lobbying, testifying at legislative hearings and participating in public demonstrations.

First Unitarian's 501(c)(3) status allows member participation in non-partisan, issue-related activities, as long as we don't engage in any type of political campaigning for candidates. While church policy permits the team to take positions on its own behalf, the Side with Love (Social Justice) Team will take care not to speak about any issue in the name of First Unitarian Church, unless the congregation has voted to take a public stand in accordance with our church bylaws.

Give us some love by checking out our new webpage on First Unitarian's website:
www.firstuomaha.org/sidewithlove

There you will find more information and specific ways to make a difference on these three issues:

Felony Disenfranchisement: Nebraskans otherwise eligible to vote are disenfranchised for two years after completing a felony sentence. It's a racist policy and one of the most extreme disenfranchisement laws in the country. We are committed to work along side many other groups to end Felony Voter Disenfranchisement in Nebraska.

Lifetime Ban on SNAP Benefits: Individuals convicted of certain felony drug convictions are singled out to suffer a lifetime ban on eligibility for SNAP benefits. Eliminating this ban removes a major barrier to their successful reintegration, while reducing hunger for their families. No other conviction, for assault, robbery, even child trafficking, has a similar ban on SNAP eligibility. (SNAP stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that helps recipients buy food.)

Decline To Sign, Stop the Voter Restriction Amendment: There is a petition circulating in Nebraska to amend our state constitution and make it harder to vote. It would (1) present major obstacles for absentee voters, including those who vote by mail, students and young voters, and deployed military voters and (2) more heavily affect seniors, Black and brown voters, people with disabilities, lower-income families and rural communities.

We are working to build a more compassionate world. Join us!!!!



The Sanctuary Singers ARE BACK!

The Sanctuary Singers meet Wednesdays at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Masks and social distancing are required. Now that we are back after many months of hiatus, it's the perfect time to think about joining us. Check out our church music page here: www.firstuomaha.org/music. Photo below is from 2018.

For more information, please contact Choir Director William Miller at choirdirector@firstuomaha.org.



Share the Plate Beneficiary for January 2022

Restoring Dignity serves refugee families in the Omaha area. They help with housing advocacy, education & supplies, home makeovers, furniture and household donations, COVID19 communication, distribution of face masks and hygiene products, information (in multiple languages), and referral to other agencies. Omaha has a very large population of resettled refugees from many different countries and language backgrounds, and the initial services from resettlement agencies do not provide the on-going support needed. Restoring Dignity helps with a focus on education and advocacy. Learn more here: <https://rdomaha.org/>.



Social Action: Reproductive Rights Rally

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, many church members and friends gathered with Rev. Shari in our church parking lot to make signs, and then headed to the Douglas County Civic Center to rally for reproductive rights. Some of the organizations at the rally were Planned Parenthood, the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, and the Women's Fund of Omaha, among others. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this important cause.



Thank you, Coffee Hour Helpers

Thank you to Kim and Brian Callaghan and Carolyn McNamara and John Wagner for setting up outdoor coffee hour in the garden this fall.

Pictured below: The coffee team (minus spouses) bundled up for the last outdoor coffee hour of the year on Sunday, December 5th.



Visitor & Membership Classes

First Steps: A Class for Visitors

Sundays: January 16, February 27, April 3, and May 1 at noon in the Whitney Young Classroom (downstairs).

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

Pathways to Membership

NEXT SESSION IN MARCH 2022

Four consecutive Wednesday evenings: March 2, March 9, March 16, and March 23 online via Zoom.

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

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

Please RSVP for the First Steps or Pathways Classes with Carrie Helmberger at coordinator@firstuomaha.org.

Interested in Church Events?

Be sure to sign up for our weekly enews. Delivered to your inbox every week, this email will keep you informed about upcoming church events and activities. Email the church office at admin@firstuomaha.org today to get signed up! Be sure to include your first and last name with your email request.

New to First Unitarian Church?

At our church, you'll find a vibrant group of religious seekers who have found a common ground where the deepest values of life can be shared. Our growing congregation offers ever-increasing opportunities for life enrichment, spiritual growth, and social justice. Our members and friends are caring, thinking, progressive people of all ages.

Our Membership Coordinator, Carrie Helmberger (pictured to the right), would be happy to meet you at one of our upcoming online visitor classes. Go here for all the details:

www.firstuomaha.org/visitorclass

We look forward to getting to know you better!



First Unitarian Church of Omaha

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