

September 2019

The Flame



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

Page 2

Sunday Services

Pages 4 & 5

Church Events

Pages 6-7

Mind the Gap
Campaign

Sunday Services

Sunday, September 1 at 10:30am

"Expecting—What?"

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Jean Heriot is a Unitarian Universalist community minister teaching and working for social justice at Hastings College.

We humans love our expectations. They help us predict what will happen next, they help us feel in control. But our expectations can also limit us. What do we expect? Could we expect more or differently? Could we live better if we expected less? We will explore the tension between needing to know (expectations) and living into hope.

Sunday, September 8 at 10:30am

Water Communion and Ingathering

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

Come, refresh your spirit, and enter into the new church year with a ritual both unique and traditional to Unitarian Universalism. Bring a small amount of water which represents the gifts you have received and wish to pass on to your community. We will gather our waters and our blessings together in this multigenerational service.

Sunday, September 15 at 10:30am

"Mind the Gap"

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

"Mind the gap" is a British expression used to caution subway riders as they cross over the gap from platform to train. Where are there gaps to be found in the life of a community? What are the gaps between expectation and reality? belief and action? pledging and budgeting? How do we close them?

Sunday, September 22 at 10:30am

From Generation to Generation: A Living Tradition

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

What does it mean to be the people of a living tradition, especially now that there are more generations living together than at any other point in history? Generational cohorts inform our worldview: how we think about work, play, technology, institutions, community, retirement, even church. With so many generational expectations in play, expectations which so often seem to be in conflict with each other, how do we form a cohesive and vibrant community? How do we welcome each and every generation into a dynamic, meaning-filled, purpose-filled living tradition?

Sunday, September 29 at 10:30am

"MWLS, John Denver, and the Freeing of My Soul"

Mike McAtee, Church Member

A tale of spiritual birth and the power of community.

Sunday Forums

We have two forums in September. Please join us before the service in the Common Room on these two Sundays for informative forums!

Sunday, September 8 at 9:30am

Soul Matters Monthly Forum:

"What Does It Mean To Be A People of Expectation"

Presented by Mike McAtee

"We've all heard the line: "You get what you expect."

It's very UU. Liberal religion has always emphasized the tremendous power human beings have to shape their reality. And not just with our actions, but also with our expectations. We know that if you expect people to be good, they will likely rise to the task. If you have faith in your plans, opportunities will likely appear.

And yet shaping reality and trusting reality are two very different things.

Sometimes we UUs become so focused on taking hold of life that we lose the spiritual skill of allowing life to hold us. And there's a lot at stake in being able to do both. We human beings weren't just made to manifest our power; we were born to learn we are part of a greater whole. Yes, we are strong, but we also tire. And so the question at the core of our souls is not just "Can I expect to make an imprint on life?" but "Can I trust life to carry me if I let go and rest?"

Excerpt from September's Soul Matters Small Group Packet: *Come join us for a taste of the Soul Matters small group experience as we explore this month's topic via thought provoking and soul-searching questions such as: Has life ever blessed you by upending your expectations? Do you live in the world as it should be or in the world as it is? Whose belief in you helped you expect more of yourself and become more?*

Sunday, September 15 at 9:30am

Topic: The 4th Elders for the Earth Retreat

Presented by Elaine Wells

Elaine Wells invites you to participate by previewing some of the fascinating events on this year's schedule, and reviewing some interesting, educational and recreational items from the past two years. Learn many ways that YOU can do something about climate change.

Ministerial Musings from the Interim Minister

By Rev. Michelle LaGrave

Dear Ones,

Welcome to a new church year! I am excited to begin another congregational year with all of you. I am feeling energized and enthusiastic. There is so much happening already and so much more to look forward to!

The church year ended soon after the Annual Meeting and the election of a Search Committee. The Search Committee has been hard at work since its formation. They have gone on retreat with their UUA-appointed transitions coach, arranged for a Beyond Categorical Thinking congregational workshop which will happen this fall, developed a congregational survey and much more. I have met with them and will continue to do so to make sure they have as much support as they feel they need.

The church year also ended soon after the hiring of a new Lifespan Director of Religious Education, Christina Strong. Christina has also been hard at work this summer. She has expanded religious education program offerings, especially to middle and high school youth and will co-teach a religious education class with me this fall. She is creative, collaborative, and energetic in her approach and is off to a great start! If you haven't met her already, I hope you will introduce yourself to her soon.

While the interim time *can* be filled with some anxiety and is *definitely* filled with significant amount of change (some of which happens more “behind the scenes” and is not as readily apparent or seemingly “exciting” — such as implementing employee agreements, updating accounting practices, upgrading computer networking systems, and much more) things are going well and I have every reason to expect they will continue to do so. So, if you haven't done it already, please consider making a pledge or increasing your pledge for the current budget year. A “Mind the Gap” campaign is currently underway to close the gap between this year's budget and congregational giving levels. While it is typical for giving to lag a bit during times of transition, it is also an important tendency to try to overcome. Let's all pull together and get it done!

With Love and Gratitude,
Rev. Michelle



Religious Education Update

Christina Strong, Lifespan Director of Religious Education

Greetings! I hope you are all welcoming the start of the 2019-20 academic year with the same enthusiasm as our new kindergarteners who moved up to the K-5 RE classroom last week! Having spent 60% of my own years going “back-to-school,” and several more helping children transition from summer adventures to fall studies, I find that this time of year is ingrained in me as a “new start” for refocusing on goals and thinking about things I'd like to learn. This fall I am excited about the educational opportunities we are offering here at First U!



For our youngest UUs, nursery staff and volunteers will begin teaching lessons from the *Chalice Children* preschool curriculum on Sunday mornings. *Chalice Children* aims to teach two to five-year-olds that they are a special part of our community! Be on the lookout for weekly “homework” that will give you the opportunity to discuss each week's topic with your preschool child.

(This article continues on page 18.)

Church Events

Young Adult Gathering

Sunday, Sept. 1 at 12:30pm in the Common Room. All young adults are invited to this casual gathering for coffee and conversation.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 2 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will watch *Stay Human*, a film about the award-winning musician, Michael Franti that features his new music.

Compassionate Communication Group

Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Common Room. Using Compassionate Communication developed by Marshall Rosenberg, PhD, we learn to connect with ourselves and others with empathy and to act in greater harmony with our values. Learning to communicate more compassionately, like speaking a new language, takes practice. Contact Suzanne: nvcsuz@gmail.com for details.

CommUnity Night

Friday, Sept. 6 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. All are welcome to this casual potluck. If you don't have time to pick up something to bring, that's okay. All we want is you. Child-care is provided. Facebook event here: www.facebook.com/events/2386024028179785/.

Teams Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 7 at 9am in the Common Room. If you have an item for the agenda, please email MTC@firstuomaha.org. All team leaders and volunteers are invited to attend this meeting as we discuss the Annual Vision of Ministry.

Caitlin & Tom's Baby Sprinkle! Offsite Event

Come celebrate the coming of Caitlin and Tom Seguin's baby (gender to be a surprise) on **Sept. 7 from 11:30am-1pm** at Ray's Original Buffalo Wings (120 South 31st Ave, Omaha). We're asking everyone to come order food for themselves and shower them with a gift to celebrate! See the event here: www.facebook.com/events/426604664619855/426629181284070/

Women's Alliance

Monday, Sept. 9 in the Common Room. Socializing and beverages start at 6:15pm with dinner at 6:30pm. At this meeting we'll discuss position sign ups. If you're interested in any of the positions or are just curious as to what each position entails, check out this signup genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAA28A0F49-sign>.

Most positions are open including Chair and Vice-Chair! We're looking to expand our leadership and bring in fresh ideas! **Meal:** BBQ chicken or tofu with baked beans, cornbread, corn on the cob, and salad. Please indicate preferences (meat, veggie, allergies, etc.) in your RSVP. **Freewill Donation:** We ask for a freewill donation of \$15, which goes to the cost of food and the Merritt Education Fund. Please let us know if you are a first-time attendee. Need childcare to join us? No problem! RSVP with your child's name & age. **RSVP FOR CHILDCARE NO LATER THAN Monday, 9/2. PLEASE RSVP TO ATTEND NO LATER THAN Friday, 9/6.** Please RSVP via the Women's Alliance [Facebook page](#) or by EMAILING Carol Cronin at croninlawomaha@gmail.com

The YRUU Youth/Caregiver Orientation (Youth Group)

Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 7pm. See page 18 for details.

The 3F Book Bonanza Group

Wednesday, Sept 11 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. We will discuss the book titled "The Trial" by Franz Kafka. Our October meeting will be on Wednesday, Oct. 9 and we will discuss the book titled "The Changeling" by Victor LaValle. For questions, please contact Sheri Conner at ksvortex@msn.com.

AHA: The First UU "Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics!" Group

Thursday, Sept. 12 in the Common Room. The doors will open at 6pm for those interested in "Bring Your Own Dinner" socializing and conversation. The meeting will start at 7pm. Join AHA in watching excerpts from the

documentary *The Mask You Live In* and discussion on how we can take responsibility for the ways we are perpetuating, or dismantling, a culture that breeds unhealthy masculinity that leads to mass shootings and other violence. Questions? Email aha@firstuomaha.org.

Leadership Talk Back

Sunday, Sept. 15 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!

First Steps Class

Sunday, Sept. 15 at 11:45am in the Whitney Young Classroom. Join us for an introduction to First Unitarian Church and Unitarian Universalism. This session is run by Carrie, our membership coordinator. All are welcome to attend. Questions? Need childcare to attend? Contact Carrie at coordinator@firstuomaha.org.

The Flame Newsletter Deadline

September 15 at noon. Please send articles to the church office: admin@firstuomaha.org.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 16 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will watch *Little Gandhi*, the story of iconic Syrian peace activist Ghayath Matar whose brutal torture and death at the age of 26 outraged the international community and erupted into one of the most violent uprisings in modern history.

Breaking Bread for Believers

Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 6:30pm in the Merritt Lounge. Are you a Believer or a Christian in any form? This group is to share/express Christian beliefs. As Unitarians, ALL religious and spiritual paths should be considered equally valid and therefore need to be represented within our community. This group will give you a sanctuary to hold those spiritual beliefs close to your heart. If you have questions, please contact Ben at bmwallace@gmail.com. Childcare is available.

Church Events

Women's Religious Studies Covenant Group

Thursday, Sept. 19 at 1pm in the lounge. This group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. Our book is *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old* by Parker J Palmer. We welcome all self-identified women. If you're interested, please contact Rae: raeb1@hotmail.com.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven—Five-Session Class

First class: Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. See page 9 for more information. RSVP required.

CUUPS Divination Night

Sunday, Sept. 22 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. CUUPS Divination Night is back by popular demand! Bring your tarot or oracle decks, etc. for a night of show and tell and readings. All are welcome, even if you don't do readings or are just curious. This is a fun, casual evening celebrating the Autumn Equinox. As always, we will have a potluck.

WAYS TO HELP:

YES Meal Prep

Monday, Sept. 23 at 9am in the Kitchen. See page 13.

Congregational Survey Deadline

Your Search Committee's survey open period goes until Sept. 23. See page 19 for information about how to participate if you're a member or friend or frequent visitor of the church.

Book Club

Monday, Sept. 30 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. We will read *24th and Glory* by Dick Chatelain. On Oct. 28, we'll discuss *Becoming More Fully Human: Religious Humanism as a Way of Life* by William R. Murray. Questions? Email Dave at dritchardson821@gmail.com.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 30 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will watch *DIVEST! The Climate Movement on Tour* which chronicles 350.org's "Do the Math" bus tour as it launched the fossil fuel

divestment campaign onto the national and ultimately international stage.

"Mind the Gap" Campaign

This campaign starts in September. Please see pages 6-7 to see how you can help the church reach its goal.

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. Our book is *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. This novel is about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances, facing issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, unflinching honesty, and heart. If you're interested, please contact Linda Parker at lparkerlib@gmail.com.

Dharma Chautauqua

Every Thursday, 6pm to 7:30pm, in the Whitney Young Classroom. More info can be found online: dharma.chautauqua.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 from September to May. For more information, contact DRE@firstuomaha.org. See page 18.

Choir Rehearsals

Every Wednesday at 7pm in the Sanctuary from September to May. For more info, email: choirdirector@firstuomaha.org. See flyer on page 16.

Soul Matters Small Groups

Various meeting dates. See here: www.firstuomaha.org/soulmatters

AHA Listening Circle

Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:45am in the Merritt Lounge. In this group we will deepen our understanding of our personal Atheist, Humanist, and Agnostic values through readings,

listening and discussion which will help to enhance the Unitarian Universalist experience for those who attend. Please contact AHA@firstuomaha.org with questions.

Upcoming Events

Stewardship Event:

Thank You Slideshow

Sunday, Oct. 6 during Coffee Hour. See pages 6 and 7.

Blessing Bag Day

Friday, Oct. 11 in the Common Room. Donations being accepted now. See flyer on page 21.

Pathways to Membership Class

Wednesdays: October 16—November 20 at 6pm-8pm in the Whitney Young Room. See page 17 for more information.

Sarah Joslyn Society Event

Sunday, Oct. 20 at 5pm in the Common Room. See page 15 for details.

Heart & Hand Auction

Friday, Oct. 25. See pages 10 and 11 for more information.

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 9 in the Common Room. See page 8 for more information.

“Mind the Gap” Campaign Letter

Oi Mate!

Your Stewardship Team has been working on a supplemental Pledge Drive since we fell short of our 2019 stewardship campaign. Our reason for initiating this campaign is because we need to “**Mind the Gap**,” which is an English expression used in their subways to make sure you don’t trip over the gap between the subway car and the platform.

Well, we don’t want to trip up in our fundraising because we:

- 1) need to maintain our beautiful 100-year-old church,
- 2) can tell our donor demographics have changed significantly in the last few years,
- 3) are in transition and pledges are usually down in transition years, and finally,
- 4) need to show our minister candidates that we are a committed congregation and that we honor our commitments.

We (your Stewardship Team—Mary Kay Peters, Mike McAtee, Sharon Piehler, and Joseph Schaaf) would like to ask you to consider increasing your pledge amount at whatever level you are comfortable, or there is the option of giving a one-time donation. Please see the pledge card on the next page.

If you haven’t pledged yet for this church year, we need you. Please fill out the card on the next page—a one-time donation is much appreciated if you cannot make a pledge at this time.

If you have questions or need to talk to someone, please contact the stewardship team by emailing stewardship@firstuuomaha.org or call Mary Kay at 402-616-3275. Please let us know if there are any questions or concerns that you might have which need to be addressed before you make a pledge or a donation and we will be happy to talk with you directly.

See more information about our campaign on the next page.

Cheers Mate!!!

Joseph Schaaf & the Stewardship Team



Double Your Impact!

Thanks to the generosity of Barb Ross and the permission of her loved ones, we are able to make a matching contribution for every dollar amount pledged up to \$25,000 to close the gap during our supplemental drive. The Stewardship Team wishes to acknowledge this fundraising blessing to our congregation and encourages everyone to take advantage of the matching gift from Barb Ross for the well-being of our beloved church. And be sure to get your picture taken on the Barb Ross Memorial Bench for the Stewardship Slide Show as we work to close the gap. The slideshow will be shown during coffee hour on Sunday, October 6th.

Contact Mike McAtee for details about having your photo taken: mcateem@cox.net, 402-250-1206.

“Mind the Gap” Pledge Card

Please fill out the form below and bring your completed card to church on Sunday or mail it to the church office. Or you can email your pledge or your increased pledge to stewardship@firstuomaha.org. See previous page for information about this campaign. Thank you for your generosity!

MIND THE GAP

First Unitarian Church of Omaha
Mind the Gap Stewardship Campaign 2019

Yes, I want to increase my pledge for the 2019/2020 Church Year

Please increase my pledge by \$ _____ for the church year.

Please increase my monthly pledge by \$ _____ per month.

I will make a one-time donation of \$ _____ now.

I would like to contribute in other ways:

Please contact me. I would like to volunteer.

Please contact me. I have other thoughts to share.

Payment Options:

My check is enclosed, made payable to: First Unitarian Church

I will go to firstuomaha.org/donate to make my donation online

Please contact me about paying my pledge with VANCO (current VANCO donors or those who want to sign-up with Vanco should check this option to change donation amounts)

My increase is a monthly increase that I will send to the church

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Best Phone Number: _____

I haven't made a pledge yet, but will now. I pledge \$ for the church year.



Update From Your Ministerial Search Committee

Your Ministerial Search Committee has been hard at work this summer! In addition to having a retreat with our regional transitions coach, Rev. Oscar Sinclair, we have been having frequent meetings to prepare for several upcoming activities that will help our church find our perfect minister. As a reminder, members of the Search Committee were elected at the Annual Meeting in May, and include Kim Dunovan, Diana Byrd, Lita Magisana, Mark Loscutoff, Kate Godfrey, Jessica Eman, Klyde Warren, and Dave Richardson.

One exciting development the Search Committee has been working on is our Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) website! This website is a great tool for the congregation to learn more about the members of the Search Committee, the process and the timeline for calling a settled minister, answers to frequently asked questions, a way to contact our committee, and a blog of our progress. Check out the MSC website at the following link: www.firstuomaha.org/msc.

Our first important church-wide activity this fall is our Congregational Survey. From August 23 to September 23, the congregation is being asked to participate in a Congregational Survey. **Members, friends, and frequent visitors were sent a link to the survey on August 23rd** so that we can begin to collect valuable information on the congregation, our concerns, and our hopes for the future of our church. The information we collect from our Congregational Survey will be valuable for our continued growth as a congregation, as well as aid us in finding our next minister. The survey will be available for several weeks via the link as well as paper copies, though we ask that you fill it out as soon as you are able! If you have any questions, please contact us by emailing searchcommittee@firstuomaha.org or through the MSC website. **You can find more information about the church survey (including the link to the survey) on page 19 of this newsletter.**

The next important activity related to our search for a settled minister will be cottage meetings. These small-group conversations are facilitated by members of the Search Committee and will take place in October. The insight we receive from these meetings will help our committee to develop our church narrative, as well as interview questions for potential ministers. The last important activity this fall will be the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop on Saturday, November 9 with the Director of the UUA Transitions Office, Rev. Keith Kron. Beyond Categorical Thinking is a facilitated exploration of implicit bias and what preconceived ideas we might have about how a minister should look and act. Attendance at the workshop is required for the Search Committee, expected of church leadership and strongly encouraged for all of our congregants. In addition to the Saturday workshop, there will be a related worship service on Sunday, November 10. We are so excited to be on this search journey with each of you, and can't wait to see where this search leads us!

Finance Matters

By Walt Jesteadt and Daniel Byrd

We can reduce our dependence on pledges to some extent by increasing the income from the church's endowment fund, the Capital Trust. Revisions of the rules governing the Trust were adopted at the May 2018 annual meeting. The three current trustees, Daniel Byrd, Bob Hess and Chris Schmidt, are charged with investing the endowment money to preserve and grow the value of the Trust while generating income. One of our goals this year, more complicated than it looks, is simply to gain access to the funds. Because our trustees serve three-year terms, with one trustee rotating off every year, the paperwork on file with a brokerage quickly becomes obsolete.

The Capital Trust currently has accounts at four brokerage houses. They are with TD Ameritrade, Vanguard, Fidelity, and T. Rowe Price with approximately \$545,000, \$430,000, \$78,000, and \$73,000 respectively. We can simplify the paperwork problem as well as preparation of reports by consolidating all of the investments under Vanguard and are in the process of doing that. In most cases, it will involve selling the investments, moving the money to Vanguard and making new investments there. Our records at Fidelity had not been updated in many years, so they did not recognize any of our current trustees as having the authority to sell investments or move money. To satisfy their requirements, all three current trustees had to meet at an agreed upon time at a Fidelity office, along with Bill Ross, who was a trustee in 1986 when the initial Fidelity investments were made, to sign new trust documents. Additional paperwork was then required and that process is still ongoing. T. Rowe Price could be worse. Vanguard has been more flexible and Daniel Byrd now has online access at both TD Ameritrade and Vanguard. When the trustees have satisfied the requirements to gain access to all of the funds and have moved everything to Vanguard, we will have only one brokerage to deal with going forward. When this process is complete, the trustees will be in a position to review our investments and for the first time in years, they will be able to implement their investment decisions.

What
would it have been like
to grow up in a world
where the divine
was imaged
as
female?

-- Rev. Shirley Ranck, PhD

“Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” is a woman-honoring adult RE curriculum. It examines pre-Judeo Christian cultures that may have worshiped the female as divine. More than Goddess 101, this workshop series examines important elements of today’s women’s lives... personal, interpersonal, and societal. It examines how our culture has been influenced by Judeo Christian values. The primary question raised is: How would your life have been different if, when growing up, the divine had been imaged as female? Participants are encouraged to share their own experiences and beliefs.

“Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: In Ancient Times” is a 5-session course. It will be co-facilitated by Rev. LaGrave and LDRE Christina Strong. Pre-registration is required and class-size is limited to 15 women (cis/trans/queer women welcome). We will meet from 6:30-8:00pm on Thursday evenings on the following dates: Sept 19, Oct 3, Oct 17, Nov 7, & Nov 21.

Contact Christina to register: dre@firstuuomaha.org or call/text 402-285-4349. Child care is available upon request.

“GAIA,” quilt by
ElizabethCarefoot.com

www.cakesforthequeenofheaven.org

**No Bones About It —
The Heart and Hand Auction Will Be An OSTEOLAST!
Friday, October 25th, 6-9 p.m. (at the church)
is our Halloween Heart & Hand Auction!**

This is our major fall social event and FUNdraiser for the church operating budget. The “heart” of the auction is when donors offer “seats” for sale for social activities through the year, or donate classy items to sell. The “hand” is when donors offer their skills and time through lessons or help with projects. Many people attribute the Heart and Hand Auction to a party to remember, MAKE NO BONES ABOUT IT, it takes many volunteers to pull off this FIBULA-ous event!

Join our SKELETON crew by volunteering at the Heart and Hand table located in the common room starting in September.

Ponder JAW-dropping donations for the auction. What might *YOU* offer to pep up our social lives, jump start a new hobby or tackle a project on that endless “to-do” list? As donations are received, they are posted to our *on-line Auction Catalog*. Monitor it frequently for new postings, and for items for sale on-line *before* the auction! The auction party features delicious foods, a cash bar, door prizes, crazy costumes (for those so inclined), a room full of silent-auction delights, and a fun live auction. Free childcare (by reservation) for infant to fifth-grade, with Halloween activities.

The church budget requires FUNdraising Team to raise \$15,000, most of which comes from the auction. Past auctions have met or exceeded this goal. Join us to make this year’s auction equally successful in support of the church. No BONES about it, the auction is the place to be!!

See you October 25th! It will be a SPINE-tingling good time!

Raffle Basket Tickets For Sale!

Our themes this year are "Humerus" and "Bone-Appetite". No bones about it, each basket will be filled with jaw-dropping items. All tickets are \$1 or 6/\$5 and will be available for purchase at the auction table starting Sept 8th.

For more auction information, go to: the auction flyer in this Flame (see next page), the Auction Table at church (starting Sept 8), the Auction Website (through www.firstuomaha.org), email auction@firstuomaha.org, or call Katrina (402-916-9741) or Kathi (402-214-2718) or Sara (720-312-4854).



Halloween "Heart & Hand" Auction Party

Friday, October 25, 2019 6-9pm
at First Unitarian Church 3114 Harney St

A Major FUNdraiser for the church operations budget!



EAT! PARTY!! SHOP!!!

Delicious Food!

Fall Favorites Potluck

Cash Bar: beer, wine, soda
(free lemonade, coffee, etc)



What will YOU donate?

AUCTION CATEGORIES

Great Goods

Physical items to sell at the auction

Gourmet Gatherings

Sharing meals – focus on food

Giving and Receiving

Homemade goodies, lessons, chores

Group Events/Classes

Concerts, classes, parties, activities



Casual & Fun!

FREE childcare

by reservation

Infant – 6th grade



Go On-Line!

To the website!

On-line sales of many items ahead of the auction.



Costumes!

Prizes: **BEST IN CATEGORY**
DISNEY

Dress as your favorite character

FUNKY BONES

Unique skeleton costume (make it extraordinary)

SPOOKS CHOICE

Open category

RAFFLE BASKETS!!

Bone-Appetite and Humerus

Door Prizes!

Sign up starting Sept 8th!

DONATE items! VOLUNTEER to help! SIGN UP for potluck or childcare!
GET A BIDDER # for on-line shopping

Visit the Auction Area in the Common Room

Email auction@firstuomaha.org

Go Online: www.firstuomaha.org

Call Kathi Oliver, (402-214-2718) Katrina Schmidt (402-916-9741) or Sara Switzer (720-312-4854)

DONATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 22ND!

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 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.

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 September is **Planned Parenthood**. For more information, go to: www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-heartland.

SISTER CHURCH EVENTS

As many of you know, we're working to reconnect with our Omaha Sister Church, Clair Memorial United Methodist Church. These events below will take place at Clair Memorial Church. The address is 5544 Ames Ave., Omaha, NE 68104.

First Friday Fish Fry: Happens the 1st Friday of each month. Times: 11am to 2pm and 4-7pm. Cost: \$12 donation includes fried catfish, homemade lemon cake and your choice of sides. For more information, call Brenda at 402-571-5234.

Monthly Food Pantry: Happens the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10am to 2pm. Drop-off pantry donations on Thursday,

Sept. 19 from 3pm to 7pm or on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 8am to noon.

Contact the Clair Memorial Church office with any questions about these events: 402-451-8322.

CHURCH PARKING

Parking is directly west of the church in the surface parking lot or on the street. We want to save the surface lot for those who need to park closer. 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 for free parking—with validation you receive FREE PARKING for the ENTIRE day. Questions? Email the church office at admin@firstuuomaha.org. See more info at our website here: www.firstuuomaha.org/directions.

OTOC (Omaha Together One Community)

OTOC Steering Committee happens on September 9 at First United Methodist Church (7020 Cass St.) Join OTOC Leaders to get caught up on what's happening with OTOC. Hear from teams about staff transitions, fundraising updates, Action Team successes, and more!

Three-Day Organizer Training

Save the Dates!

October 17-19 (Thursday evening through Saturday afternoon). Times: Thursday 6:30pm – 8:30pm, Friday 9am– 7pm, Saturday 9am – 12pm at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/1RuXaxGfxU5iHdzv7>
\$50 fee to attend – Scholarships Available (Snacks, 2 Friday meals included)

For more information about OTOC, please visit: www.otoc.org.

Ways You Can Get Involved

YES Meal Prep: Volunteers

Monday, Sept. 23 at 9am in the Kitchen.

Help Kim prepare a meal for the YES Shelter.

Donated desserts are always welcomed!

Every month Kim and her team prepare a meal for Youth Emergency Services (YES). See this website for more info: www.yesomaha.org. Want to help Kim? Email kjcallaghan@hotmail.com.

Seeking Childcare Staff for Evening/Weekend Events

It's very important to the church to offer childcare for events to enable the participation of parents in all activities of the church. Our current childcare employees are predominantly college students, who tend to go on breaks at the same time. We're seeking 1-2 additional employees to provide care for occasional events (estimated time commitment 4-10 hrs/month). Employees can be part of our congregation or unaffiliated. Please share this job posting with any suitable candidates. Requirements: at least 16 years old, prior childcare experience, references, must pass background check. For more details, contact Christina at dre@firstuomaha.org or 402-285-4349.

Office Volunteers

Have you ever wondered, if even for a moment, who replaces the pink attendance sheets on the clipboards in the pews, or changes the batteries in the hearing assist devices? Those are just two of the tasks that most people don't give a thought to, unless it's not done. The Friday Office Volunteer Team are looking for a few good people! If you can spare an hour or so on a Friday afternoon, or an hour on a Wednesday morning once a month, let us know! Please contact Kim at kjcallaghan@hotmail.com or call the church office: 402-345-3039, ext. 101.

Stream Team: Every Sunday we stream our service for those who are not able to join us in person. Are you interested in learning how to operate our Apple MacBook Pro computer and the WireCast software? If so, please let Bill Ross know and we will get you started. Training will vary depending on what experience you have. Email Bill at Bill@ross.vg.

Call for Photos!

Like to take pictures? If you capture a great photo at church, please send your photo to the church office at admin@firstuomaha.org. We are always looking for new photos we can share in our newsletter, on the church website and social media. Thank you!

Blessing Bag Donations & Assembly

It's that time again! Every year, the church collects much-needed items and then assembles blessing bags. What are blessing bags? They're light-weight bags that are filled with toiletries, snacks, gloves, and other items requested by those who visit the church when in need. Thanks to generous donors, the church purchases the bags themselves and some of the items, but we still have a list of items that you can donate. Learn more about this project on page 21—on that page you'll see our flyer. Blessing Bag Day is October 11th. We will need all donations in by the week before. The list of needed items will be updated on our web page: www.firstuomaha.org/blessingbags.

Don't want to go shopping? Make a donation to the Blessing Bag project so church staff can go shopping for the items. Just write "blessing bags" in the memo line of your check and mail the check to the church or drop it in the offering plate this Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this project over the years. Blessing Bag funds also help us purchase bus passes, gas cards, and food cards to nearby restaurants.

We appreciate all the people who have helped us help others in our neighborhood.

Stay up-to-date at our Facebook Blessing Bag event page here: www.facebook.com/events/2509279065970610/

Soul Matters Groups Start in September

Soul Matters are small groups that meet once a month at church. Our groups will start meeting in September!

Here straight from the Soul Matters program office is what we aspire to in our groups: "Simply put, Soul Matters groups offer the gift of spiritual connection. Around us swirls a shallow, frantic and materialistic culture that leaves us cut off from our deepest selves, life's gifts and needs greater than our own. Many of us come to church hungry to mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. Soul Matters exists to support this journey of reconnection to life, others and ourselves. We do that by listening. Fundamentally, that's what Soul Matters is—an invitation to listen more deeply and intentionally..."

If you participated last year, we want you back and if you didn't, we want you now! What's the worst that can happen? You make a new friend?

To sign up for a group and for more information go to www.firstuomaha.org/soulmatters

Questions? Email Mike at mcateem@cox.net.

Library Lady

By Linda Parker



Parker J. Palmer writes in his book, *On the Brink of Everything; Grace, Gravity & Getting Old*:

“As we age, it’s important to get clear about the difference between the jobs by which we make a living and the callings, or vocations, by which we make meaning... It’s possible to follow a calling to the end of life and continue to make meaning at a time when it is much needed.”

One of the joys in my life has been the intersection of my vocation as a librarian and my Unitarian religious journey for the past 50+ years. I have always believed in the power of the people. And that power is best exercised with full and accurate information which is freely available. Libraries which provide information empower people regardless of race, class, gender, or orientation. Every time I walked into a place full of books, I stand in awe of the power of the ideas and knowledge contained on the shelves or in an e-reader. The fourth of the seven principles of Unitarian belief, “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning,” is especially important in an era of accusations of fake news, censorship, and disinformation.

Every September, the American Library Association sponsors Banned Books Week during the last week of the month, September 22-28 in 2019. I invite you to read a banned book. A few examples:

- 1.) *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Jill Twiss, banned for including LGBTQIA+ content, and for political and religious viewpoints;
- 2.) *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, banned because it was deemed ‘anti-cop’, and for profanity, drug use, and sexual references;
- 3.) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, banned for sexual references, profanity, violence, gambling, underage drinking, and its religious viewpoint;
- 4.) *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, banned for sexual violence, belief that it lead to terrorism, promotion of Islam.

If you would like to see a list of the most challenged books since 2001, please consult the ALA list at www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10 . The American Library Association also has a “Library Bill of Rights, first formulated in 1939 and last updated in 2019, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill> . Another important document about the relationship between the freedom to read and democracy is “The Freedom to Read Statement”, www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement. Let’s all turn on the lights!



Elders for the Earth—Outside Opportunity

Elders for the Earth is a Chautauqua-like event, Oct. 13 to Oct. 15 at Platte River State Park in Louisville, NE. Rest when you need/want to. Local food and local speakers and presenters all about taking care of the earth. Our team wants you to enjoy, be well fed, physically and mentally, and be in the company of people who are doing things to stop the climate crisis. The team putting this event together includes folks from Interfaith Power and Light, environmental groups, justice groups, church groups, all concerned about climate change. We are interested in local, national, and global ways to deal with the coming changes in the climate and believe that building community is an important way to 1) make changes, 2) cope with changes, and 3) enjoy the company along the way.



Learn more at Elders4theEarth.com and come to the Sunday Forum on Sept. 15th given by Elaine Wells—she will discuss this year’s schedule and give more information about this important event. See the Sunday Forum information on page 2 of this newsletter.

Sarah Joslyn Society Event Happening in October

By Deb Duggan

Some 15 years ago (2004), the Sarah Joslyn Society was born, the brain child of Dixie Lemon. As the legend goes, Dixie was a newly coerced (her words) member of the First U finance committee. At her first meeting, Bill Ross mentioned the Capital Trust Fund, which grows from investments and from donations and bequests. At that time, it had about \$312,000, which didn't impress Dixie as an enormous cushion upon which the church could rest. Being her inquisitive self, she asked Bill if anyone had tried to encourage members and friends to consider it in their estate planning. His succinct answer was "No, do you want to do that?" And thus the Sarah Joslyn Society came into being, named after an early and famous benefactress.

Over the ensuing years Dixie's gentle prods, witty articles and pithy sayings ("You'll never miss the money!") have helped the membership grow from 32 original members to more than 75 who have named the church in their estate planning. And that \$312,000 has more than doubled, thanks to those who have chosen to "plant a tree so that others might enjoy the shade." SJS Society members receive a beautiful plaque made from an original slate tile from the church roof which was procured by Dean Christensen and painted by Sandi Bruns. We also gather in the fall to celebrate our current members and welcome our new ones. This fun event, a cocktail reception, is fast approaching. We'll meet in the Common Room at 5pm on Sunday, October 20th. Won't you consider joining us as a new member of the Sarah Joslyn Society? Give Deb Duggan a call at 402-553-5477. She'll fill you in on all the particulars (the easiest club you'll ever join!)

Thank you, Cat!

By Carolyn McNamara, Office Team Leader

In August of 2009, First Unitarian Church made the wise decision to hire Catharine Dixon as church secretary. Ten years later she is our beloved church administrator and irreplaceable! When we celebrated Cat at the August CommUnity Night, the Common Room was filled with church members and friends who came to make sure that she knows how much she is appreciated.



I have always thought of Catharine as the hub of the wheel that keeps First Unitarian turning. She has gracefully handled changes in ministers, presidents, board members and team leaders, and all of their quirks. She has prepared for, and sat through, countless board meetings and MTC meetings on her nights and weekends. She makes sure our website is up to date, and has created countless issues of the monthly Flame newsletter and weekly enews. She even manages to send out the news while on vacation. She works with both the Finance team and the Stewardship team in money matters. She assists brides planning their weddings and families planning memorial services for their loved ones. She greets the homeless at our door, providing them with what she can, including creating blessing bags to hand out. She schedules the necessary service calls and deals with repair people, whether for heating, air conditioning, electricity, carpet cleaning, painting, plumbing, vermin control, the elevator or coffee delivery. No job is too little or too big. If it happened at First Unitarian, she had a hand in it or has done it all. I guarantee you, she has thought about what you need before you know. And she does all of this with constant interruption by phone or doorbell or email. Everyone wants something from her and she handles each request like a pro. She is patient, dedicated, diplomatic and willing to learn and grow. I think she is the perfect face of our church to the outside world and I wanted you all to know.

Photos by Carolyn McNamara and Scott Kemper



Like Bacon... Only Better.

Join Sanctuary Singers

Singing builds confidence, reduces stress and anxiety and raises endorphins. Plus it's low in fat! Come out for a rehearsal and see what a great time we have!

First Unitarian Universalist Choir is open to all high school age students and older. No audition is required, but a brief (1 - minute or less) range and pitch-matching check will be on offer. Music reading and some previous choral experience are helpful but not required.

First Rehearsal: Wednesday,
September 4, 2019 at First Unitarian
Universalist Church in the Sanctuary.

Rehearsals start at 7:00pm and
conclude by 8:45pm.

For more information email:
choirdirector@firstuomaha.org



Pathways to Membership

Reboot!

This is a chance to get an even more in-depth look at what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.

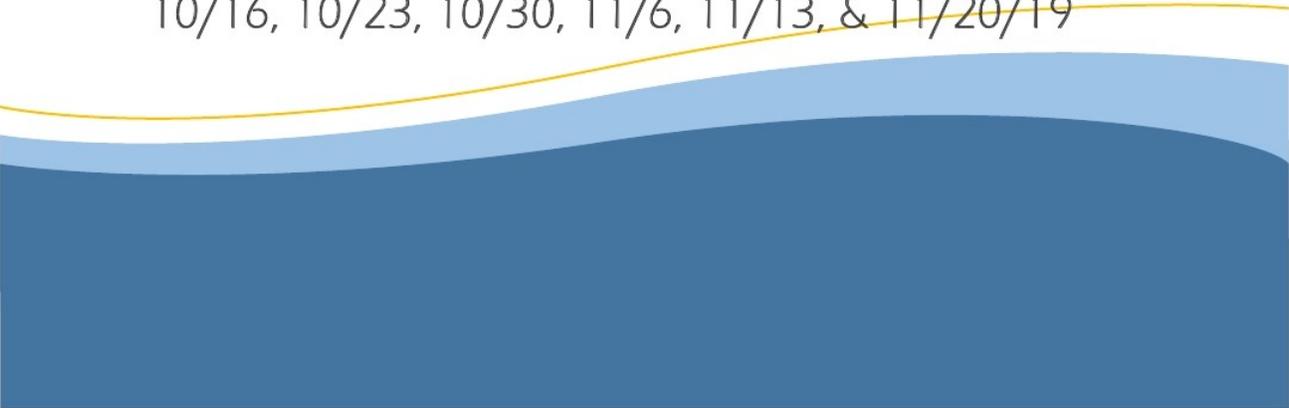
We'll spend time learning about the history of Unitarian Universalism and what it means to be a part of the community. Our focus will be on  the whys of our chosen faith. Classes will include member-led discussions about the history of our church and the UU church at large, our church governance (the congregation-led church), religious education, elements of worship, and much more!

RSVP to Carrie at

coordinator @firstuuomaha.org

*New Wednesday night courses to start in October! More to follow

Consecutive Wednesday evenings 6:00–8:00 PM
10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, & 11/20/19



Religious Education Update *(continued from page 3)*

Christina Strong, Lifespan Director of Religious Education

For our elementary students, Sunday morning lessons will be crafted from the resources in our *Soul Matters* RE packets. Prior to becoming a director of religious ed, I had thought, “I wish there was a way for adults and children to be focusing on the same topics on Sunday mornings, so we could discuss them over lunch...” Surprise! That already exists, and it’s *Soul Matters*! I encourage you to talk to our children during coffee hour about what they learned during class, and I will be following up next spring to ask you if this format helped facilitate intergenerational conversation.

Another opportunity for our elementary students this fall is our kindergarten to 1st grade & 4th-6th grades OWL classes [Our Whole Lives sexuality education program], which are being offered in collaboration with Second Unitarian Church. The deadline for registering for these classes is Sept. 1, so please contact me right away if you still need to register your child.

Our middle and high school students have spent Sunday mornings in August planning a 10-15 minute promotional video that will highlight the opportunities for involvement in our church. They will continue working on this project throughout September and may approach YOU to ask what continues bringing you to First U?

This group is also getting excited for YRUU, our Wednesday night youth group offered in collaboration with Second Unitarian Church. The YRUU youth/caregiver orientation will be held on **Sept 11th** at 7pm in the Common Room, and YRUU will resume their weekly meetings on **Sept 18th**.

In other exciting news, I am in the early stages of preparing to offer OWL to our middle and high school youth. I will be attending an OWL facilitator training at the end of September, and am hoping to offer middle school OWL beginning in October 2019 and high school OWL in the fall of 2020, keep an eye on the weekly e-news for more details.

In the area of Adult RE, I will be co-facilitating Cakes for the Queen of Heaven sessions with Rev. Michelle. Please see page 9 for more details about this course. I am very excited about this program and have been bragging to all my friends, “Look what I get to teach... for my job!” Registration is limited, so please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

If you share my enthusiasm for teaching, or are curious to see what the children are learning, I encourage you to volunteer as a teacher or assistant in our RE classrooms on Sunday mornings. Please contact me for more details about these opportunities.

Contact me by email at DRE@firstuomaha.org or call/text 402-285-4349.

Congregational Survey for Members and Friends of First Unitarian Church

Dear Member or Friend of First Unitarian Church of Omaha,

It's survey time! The congregational survey is an important part of our search for a new minister, and we appreciate your participation. Data collected here helps the search committee to communicate who we are as a congregation. The information gathered is collated; individual answers are confidential. Once the survey is completed, a report will be compiled and shared with the congregation and with potential ministers who are interested in us.

In the past, new members or frequent visitors have hesitated to take part, but rest assured, we want your input! A church without new members is a church without a future, and we appreciate your effort and your candor, even if you don't attend often.

The survey will be open from August 23rd to September 23rd. The survey team will have some laptops available after church on September 8th for those without computer access. Paper copies will also be available through the office and at coffee hour (see Kate Godfrey or Lita Magisana).

Our test group has taken between 10 and 30 minutes to complete the survey.

Click the link below to participate.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTksrarF2ovZYu8XaFcNM8mLT6wWWW0AjsvLMXW5cfAqUN3A/viewform?usp=sf_link

We thank you for your participation. Special thanks go to Peter Solfest, Scott Kemper, and Elaine Wells for your assistance.

Your Search Committee:

Diana Byrd
 Kim Dunovan
 Jessica Eman
 Kate Godfrey
 Mark Loscutoff
 Lita Magisana
 Dave Richardson
 Klyde Warren

Learn more about your Search Committee on page 8 of this newsletter.

Pay it Forward —2020 Edition

**Note: this is not a church event, but it is a wonderful idea. Participation is optional and most of the communication about this project will happen on Facebook.*

Background: Chris Oliver, church member, is turning 45 in 2020 and it's time to pay it forward! In 2015 many of Chris' friends paid it forward for his 40th birthday. This time, his partner Kathi Oliver is hoping to get hundreds of people to pay it forward in honor of Chris.

A year from now, Chris will be able to read and see all of the wonderful things you have done in his honor.

Please invite anyone to this Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/328352138067176/. This event is where the acts of kindness will be shared.

What is it? How does it work?

1. Participate in the event by spreading kindness and love to someone else (Kathi has posted some ideas in the Facebook event, but the sky is the limit.)
2. Post your activities in the Facebook event and include what you did! Include a photo if you can!
3. You can do it as many times as you like over the year. Once a month, Once a year! No limit! Just one act of kindness is all we're asking for!
4. SHHHHHH....IT'S A BIG SECRET! So don't invite him to the Facebook event and don't talk about it when he is around.

How to Pay It Forward?

Look out for the opportunities. Be willing to help complete strangers. Give freely without expecting anything in return. Even small acts count. It doesn't matter so much how much you give. All that matters is that you are willing to give and to spread the love.

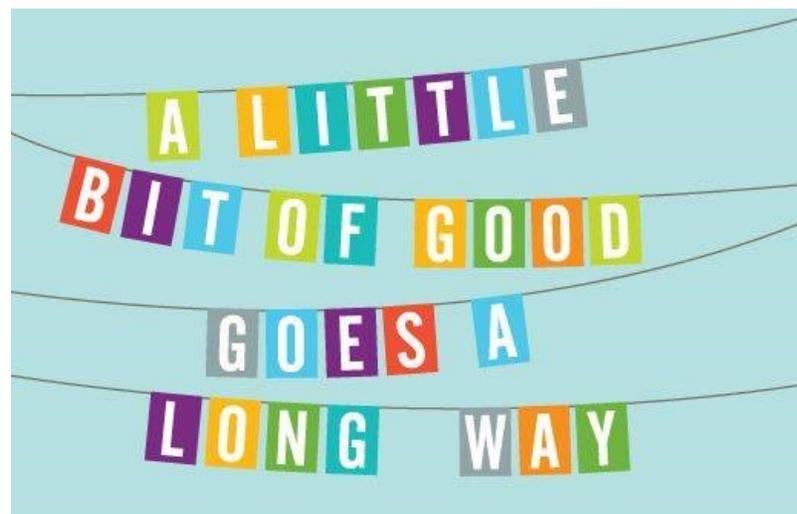
IDEAS:

Participate in a cleanup day
 Buy someone coffee
 Donate clothes, toiletries, food
 Walk/Run for a good cause
 Leave a good book behind (fill up a little free library)
 Donate blood
 Take your neighbors dog for a walk.
 Mow someone's lawn
 Carry someone's bags
 Tell someone thank you and that they matter

Help Kathi celebrate this wonderful man!

Questions?

Email Kathi at kathryn.lewis.kl@gmail.com.



Blessing Bags: Donations Needed

Help First U Help Our Neighbors

The Midtown Helping Hands Team (Neighborhood Ministry Team) needs more Blessing Bags. The winter months can be rough for those without shelter, those without permanent homes, those living in shelters, and those who simply need help. It's easy to take for granted having personal care items on hand. Please help us create Blessing Bags so the church can give them out at the door.

Two ways you can help: Donate items needed for the bags and/or help build the bags on Blessing Bag Day (10/11/2019).

Donations needed (You can donate in increments):

Items still needed:

Travel-size liquid soap - 100 needed
 Travel-size deodorant - 100 needed
 Travel-size shampoo - 100 needed
 Chapstick - 100 needed
 Toothbrushes - 100 needed
 Travel-size toothpaste tubes - 100 needed
 Gloves (warm, large) - 100 pairs needed
 Stocking Hats (warm-, large) - 100 needed
 Tube socks/unisex - large - 200 pairs needed
 Nail clippers - 100 needed
 Travel size sunscreen - 100 needed
 Wet wipes travel packages - 100 needed
 Hand warmers - 100 needed
 Breakfast/granola bars - 100 needed
 Pouches of cereal - 100 needed
 Small note pads - 100 needed

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All items should be unused & new. We appreciate donations, but space is limited. Please only donate what we have requested. Don't have time to shop? You can donate money to the project. Just write "blessing bags" on the memo line of your check. Drop your check in the mail or leave it in the Sunday offering plate.

A marked Donation Box is in the Common Room. The above list will be updated on our webpage:

www.firstuomaha.org/blessingbags

Check with the church office with questions. You can donate in increments. Thank you!

Interim Minister

Rev. Michelle LaGrave
minister@firstuomaha.org

**Lifespan Director
of Religious Education**

Christina Strong
dre@firstuomaha.org

Membership Coordinator

Carrie Helmberger
coordinator@firstuomaha.org

Church Administrator

Catharine Dixon
admin@firstuomaha.org

Sanctuary Singers Director

William Miller
choirdirector@firstuomaha.org

Organist

Pat Will

Sanctuary Singers Accompanist

J. Gawf

EMR Director

Stan Harper

Minister Emeriti

Ronald Knapp
 Frank Rivas

Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Dr. Sarah Voss

Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Laudi
childcare@firstuomaha.org

Custodian

Bobby Medrano

THE FLAME

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

Editor/Designer: Cat Dixon

Proofers:

Brian Callaghan, Scott Kemper,
 Lois Norris

Flame Mailing Team:

Debbie Hunsberger, Lois Norris,
 Linda Hruska, Kim Callaghan

Meet Our Leaders

Board Members

Joe Schaaf (President), Sharon Piehler (President-Elect), Catherine Plumlee (Secretary), Sarah Copeland, Harold Cruz-Sanchez, Peg Pidgeon, Bill Tull, Donna Tubach Davis
 Email: board@firstuomaha.org

Trustees of the Capital Trust

Daniel Byrd (2020), Bob Hess (2021), Christopher Schmidt (2022)

Ministry Team Council

Amy Lucas, Sarah Mongahan, Sharon Piehler, Rev. Michelle LaGrave
 Email: mtc@firstuomaha.org

Nominating Committee: Nellie Chenoweth, Kate Godfrey, Mike McAtee, Carolyn McNamara, Kathi Oliver

Right Relations Committee: Della Bynum, Carol Cronin, Mark Loscutoff, Sarah Voss

Transition Team: Kathy Alexander, Skip Ciulla, Carol Cronin, Kay Lynn Goldner, John Hruska, Marcia Leise, Klyde Warren

Ministerial Search Committee: Diana Byrd, Kim Dunovan, Jessica Eman, Kate Godfrey, Mark Loscutoff, Lita Magisana, Dave Richardson, Klyde Warren

Ministry Teams and Team Leaders

AHA—Sheri Conner
 Archives/Library—Linda Parker
 Baby Welcoming Team—Katrina Schmidt, & Sara Switzer
 Black Lives Matter—Rene Harper
 Caring—Louise Jeffrey
 Chalice Guild—Kay Lynn Goldner
 CUUPS—Steve Switzer
 Early Morning Risers—Mary Kay Peters & Lloyd Olson
 Fellowship Team—Nadine Keith & Nellie Chenoweth
 Finance Team—Walt Jesteadt
 Garden—Sharon Conlon
 Governance—open
 Fundraising Team—Donna Neff & Katrina Schmidt
 Hope in Action—open
 Hospitality Teams—Carolyn McNamara
 House and Grounds Team—open
 Listening Circles—Katrina Schmidt
 Membership Team—Mike McAtee
 Midtown Helping Hands—open
 Office Team—Carolyn McNamara
 Omaha Together One Community—Laurie Gift
 Partner Church Team—Dave Olson
 Recycling Coordinators—Dave & Evy Rosser
 Right Relations—Nadine Keith
 Social Justice Coordinator—Sharon Conlon
 Soul Matters—Michael McAtee
 Stewardship Team—Mary Kay Peters & Peg Pidgeon
 Wayside Pulpit—Kim Dunovan
 Women's Alliance—Catherine Plumlee
 Worship Arts Team—Mary Thomas
 Young Adult Group—open
 YRUU—Carol Cronin & Tom Seguin

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!

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

www.firstuomaha.org

402-345-3039

Church Events

“Mind the Gap” Campaign

This campaign starts in September. Please see pages 6-7.

Young Adult Gathering

Sunday, Sept. 1 at 12:30pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 2 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Compassionate Communication Group

Tuesdays, Sept. 3 and 17 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

MTC Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 5 at 6pm in the Merritt Lounge.

CommUnity Night

Friday, Sept. 6 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Teams Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 7 at 9am in the Common Room. See page 4.

Caitlin & Tom's Baby Sprinkle! Offsite Event

Saturday, Sept. 7. See page 4.

Sunday Forum

Sept. 8 at 9:30am in the Common Room. See page 2.

Women's Alliance

Monday, Sept. 9 in the Common Room. See page 4.

3F Book Bonanza Group

Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 4.

AHA: Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics Event

Thursday, Sept. 12 in the Common Room. See page 4.

Sunday Forum

Sept. 15 at 9:30am in the Common Room. See page 2.

Leadership Talk Back

Sunday, Sept. 15 at 11:30am in the Common Room. See page 4.

First Steps Class

Sunday, Sept. 15 at 11:45am in the Whitney Young Room. See page 4.

The Flame Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 15 at noon. Send articles to the church office: admin@firstuomaha.org.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 16 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 6pm in the Common Room. (NOTE: This month we're meeting on the 3rd Tuesday)

Breaking Bread for Believers

Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 6:30pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 4.

Women's Religious Studies Covenant Group

Thursday, Sept. 19 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven—

Five Session Class. First class: *Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. See page 9. RSVP required.*

CUUPS Divination Night

Sunday, Sept. 22 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

WAYS TO HELP: Yes Meal Prep

Monday, Sept. 23 at 9am in the kitchen. See page 13.

Congregational Survey Deadline

Monday, Sept. 23. See page 19

Private Wedding

Saturday, Sept. 28 at 4pm.

Book Club

Monday, Sept. 30 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 30 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

Sister Church Events

Many events happen at our Sister Church, Clair Memorial. See a list of upcoming events on page 12.

OTOC Events

Many OTOC happen at other area churches. See page 12 for a list of upcoming events.

Recurring Events...

Bridge Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each 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. September to May. See page 5.

Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 7pm in the Sanctuary. September to the first week of June. See flyer on page 16.

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...

Stewardship Event:

Thank You Slideshow

Sunday, Oct. 6 during Coffee Hour. See pages 6 and 7.

Blessing Bag Day

Friday, Oct. 11 in the Common Room. Donations being accepted now. See pages 13 and 21.

Pathways to Membership Class

Wednesdays: October 16—November 20 at 6pm-8pm in the Whitney Young Room. See page 17 for more information.

Sarah Joslyn Society Event

Sunday, Oct. 20 at 5pm in the Common Room. See page 15 for details.

Heart & Hand Auction

Friday, Oct. 25 at 6pm. See pages 10 and 11 for more information.

Beyond Categorical Thinking

Workshop by the Search Committee
Saturday Nov. 9 in the Common Room. See page 8.

NO BONES ABOUT IT...
the best party in town!



Save the Date!!

Heart and Hand
Auction
Friday, October 25th
6pm



See pages 10 & 11 in this newsletter for more info!

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

www.firstuomaha.org