

September 2018

The Flame



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

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Minister

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Anniversary
Celebration Event

Church Services

Sunday, September 2 at 10:30am

"Vision 2020"

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

An interim period can be an exciting and vibrant time in the life of a congregation; a time when a congregation gains clarity about its vision of itself and its future. Our new interim minister, Rev. Michelle, will be preaching for the first time. Come to hear her thoughts on the journey onward - 'till 2020! A special "Welcome Rev. Michelle Coffee Hour" will follow in the Common Room. See page 4 for more information.

Sunday, September 9 at 10:30am

"Welcome Home"

Rev. Michelle LaGrave and Jan Wilson, DRE

New and longtime members, visitors and friends alike, join us as we gather from hither and yon to celebrate an annual UU tradition--water communion. Please bring a small amount of water symbolizing a gift you received this summer and would like to pass on to others. (Extra water will be available, just in case.)

This will be a multi-generational service.

Sunday, September 16 at 10:30am

"To Forgive or Not to Forgive"

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

Are we obligated to forgive those who have harmed us? Why or why not? What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of choosing to forgive or not to forgive? Let's explore these questions together as we bear witness to the Jewish celebration of the High Holy Days.

Sunday, September 23 at 10:30am

"The Ties That Bind: A Former None's Perspective on Unitarian Universalism"

Mike McAtee, Church Member

What are the things at the heart of Unitarian Universalism that make us a religion and not just a place for the promotion of social justice and the free expression of the world's faith traditions?

Sunday, September 30 at 10:30am

"A Celebration of the Centennial of the Dedication of our Building" This service honors the dedication of our church which took place on Sept. 29, 1918. We will honor our past and the people who built the fires by which we are warmed and dug the wells from which we drink. We will also have an eye to the future and those who will continue the traditions and values we hold dear. Several "visitors" from our past will speak to us on this auspicious occasion. Speakers include former President William Howard Taft, Board member Sarah Joslyn, stalwart leader of the Women's Alliance, Grace Holdrege and Alan McDonald, the architect of our beloved building. A reception with cake and coffee in the Common Room will follow the service. See page 9 in this newsletter for more information about the celebration.

Sunday Forums

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

Sunday, September 2 at 9:30am

Elders for the Earth Chautauqua

Because climate change is becoming so dire, local seniors will gather for the 3rd environmental retreat at Mahoney State Park, Oct. 7-9, to network, learn and have fun! Elaine Wells will preview the highlights. John Pappan will report on the Protecting Mother Earth Conference near Olympia, Washington, sponsored by Indigenous Environmental Network.

Sunday, September 9 at 9:30am

Soul Matters Forum

Mike McAtee will discuss the Soul Matters Program that begins in September. This program has monthly themes for our congregation to focus on and small group sessions that you can join. To read about this program before the forum, see: www.firstuomaha.org/soulmatters. Be sure to join us after the service during coffee hour for the **Get Connected Fair: A Small-Group Sign-Up Extravaganza**. See page 4 for information.

Sunday, September 16 at 9:30am

Celebrating our Heritage or "Party like it's 1918"

Presenters include Dave Richardson, Carolyn McNamara, and Linda Parker. This year marks the Centennial of our beloved building, and next year will be the Sesquicentennial of the founding of First Unitarian of Omaha. We have a lot of interesting and fun activities planned. The first event is the September 30th service, celebrating the dedication of the building. We will also talk about our congregational history book, *Pillars & Dreams*, coming out in September. Suggestions and comments from attendees are encouraged.

Sunday, September 23 at 9:30am

Travelling on a budget

Bebe Barreras-McCammond

How to travel on a budget without missing any of the sights. Using technology, travel guides, and city passes to help save money and time.

Sunday September 30 at 9:30am

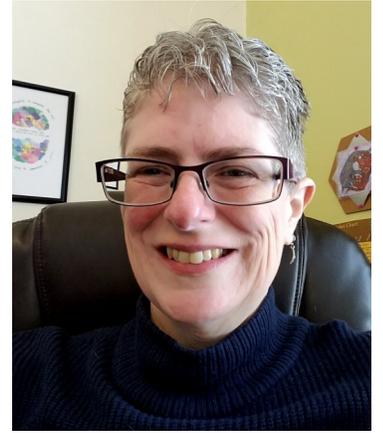
Early Education and Care

Catherine Plumlee will discuss best practices regarding child nutrition and physical activity in early care and education settings.

Ministerial Musings from the Interim Minister

Greetings Everyone!

I am excited to be here at First Unitarian and to serve as your interim minister for the next two years. The interim is a special time in the life of a congregation when a church is given the opportunity to spend some time in reflection. Questions arise such as: Who are we as a community now? Who would we like to become? Is our mission still relevant? What skills and talents are most important in our next called minister? What are our strengths? Where are our challenges? An interim minister's role in all of this is like a person holding up a mirror so a congregation can better see and understand itself. Interim ministers also help with the processing of grief at the last minister's departure as well as grief from other hurts of the past. The work of the congregation during an interim revolves around five focus points. They are listed below:



- **HERITAGE**– Reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed
- **LEADERSHIP**– Reviewing the member needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership
- **MISSION**– Defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction
- **CONNECTIONS**– Discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself
- **FUTURE**– Developing congregational and pastoral profiles

All of this work is critical for your next called ministry to have the greatest chance of success and you'll be hearing a lot more about these focus points over the course of the next two years. I believe that an interim is an exciting time in a congregation's history. You have before you the opportunity to be people of bold vision charting your own course for the future. I look forward to accompanying you on this lively journey!

In faith,
Rev. Michelle

Contacting the Interim Minister

Generally speaking, I am in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; though exact times will fluctuate with pastoral care needs and meeting schedules. Fridays are study and writing days and I keep Sabbath on Friday nights. Mondays are my day off.

Please feel free to drop by and say hello *or* make an appointment if you'd like to be sure to meet with me at a specific time. Cat Dixon has access to my calendar and can schedule appointments for me if the need arises. I am also available by email (minister@firstuomaha.org), voicemail (402-345-3039 ext. 102), text, and messenger. My cell phone # is 860-539-3248. Please do contact me at any time in the case of a pastoral care emergency or other urgent matter.

Welcome Rev. Michelle Coffee Hour Event!

On Sunday, September 2nd during coffee hour in the Common Room, please join the Board and the Transition Team as we welcome Rev. Michelle LaGrave to First Unitarian. We will have cake and coffee after the service to celebrate her arrival. Come meet our interim minister!

Read about Bella, Michelle's service dog, on page 6.

Church Events

Welcome Rev. Michelle Event

Sunday, Sept 2 during Coffee Hour in the Common Room. Please join the Board and the Transition Team as we welcome Rev. Michelle to First Unitarian. We will have cake and coffee after the service to celebrate her arrival. Come meet our interim minister!

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 3 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will watch *Matewan*, a film about coal miners struggling to form a union. They are up against company operators and the gun thugs of the notorious Baldwin-Felts detective agency.

Compassionate Communication Group

We will meet at 7pm in the Common Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in September and October. We are learning about Compassionate Communication developed by Marshall Rosenberg, PhD. Contact nvcsuz@gmail.com for details. If you need childcare, please email childcare@firstuuomaha.org.

CommUnity Night

Friday, Sept. 7 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. The main dish is provided by RE. Everyone is welcome to come to this relaxed monthly potluck dinner. Bring games! Chit chat! There will be childcare. We can't wait to see you!

Get Connected Fair: A Small-Group Sign-Up Extravaganza.

Sunday, Sept. 9 during Coffee Hour in the Common Room. Various small discussion groups, including those focused on the Soul Matters topics, will showcase information about their groups and meetings during coffee hour. This will be a great opportunity to plug in and meet new friends at First Unitarian!

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, Sept. 9 at noon in the Whitney Young Classroom. This group welcomes everyone ages 18-35 from all over the Omaha metro. Questions? Please email: youngadults@firstuuomaha.org.

Soul Matters Small Groups begin in September with various dates. See page 6 for details.

Women's Alliance

Monday, Sept. 10 in the Common Room. Socializing and beverages start at 6:30pm with dinner following at 7pm. Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend the Women's Alliance gathering. Our program will be an interactive discussion of our primary objective leading to the development of a Mission Statement or Purpose along with a slide show presentation of banners from GA and ideas for our banner design. The meal will feature home-made lasagnas, green salad and rolls. Please RSVP your preference: beef/red sauce, chicken/white sauce, or veggie. This year, we ask anyone with special dietary needs to contact us directly so we can arrange good options. Contact Donna: DonnaUU@gmail.com, 402-699-3183 about dietary needs. Also, children will eat the same food as us or please bring their own meal. 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're a first-time attendee. Need childcare to join us? No problem! RSVP with your child's name and age. Please RSVP for this event via the [Facebook event page](#) or by emailing Jeri Thurber at jeri.thurber@gmail.com no later than September 7th.

Jonathan Haidt Book Groups

When Kate Wiig gets up on the pulpit because of a book, we get curious! Join us for a discussion of the two books by Jonathan Haidt that inspired Kate's sermon this summer. There will be 2 separate groups. The first will meet only twice, once for each book. The second group will meet biweekly to discuss the books in smaller sections.

Dates, titles and chapters are listed below. Choose the group you'd like:

Group 1—We will meet in the Whitney Young Classroom (only 2 meetups):
Monday, October 1, 6 -8pm. We will discuss *The Happiness Hypothesis*.
Monday, October 29th, 6-8pm. We

will discuss *The Righteous Mind*.

Group 2—We will meet in the Merritt Lounge. Wednesdays, 6-7pm.

The Happiness Hypothesis
September 12th (Introduction and Chapters 1 -3)
September 26 (Chapters 4 - 7)
October 10 (Chapters 8 -11)
October 24—*The Righteous Mind* (Introduction and Part 1)
November 7 (Part 2)
November 21 (Part 3)
Any questions can be directed to Denise at denise.allain@yahoo.com.

AHA! "Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics!" Meeting

Thursday, September 13 in the Common Room. Doors open at 6pm for socializing and "Bring Your Own Dinner." The meeting starts at 7pm. Our topic this month: **Oneness: A Humanistic Theology of Everything with Ron Knapp, Minister Emeritus.** Questions? Email aha@firstuuomaha.org.

The 3F Book Bonanza Group

Friday, September 14th at 7pm in the lounge. The book will be *Freshwater* by Akwaeke Emezi. Going forward we will be meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month. Contact Denise (denise.allain@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

The Flame Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 15 at noon. Word limit: 200. Send submissions to admin@firstuuomaha.org.

Leadership Talk Back

Sunday, Sept. 16 at 11:30am in the Common Room. The MTC and the Church Board want to hear from you. Have questions? Suggestion? Please join your church leaders at a table in the Common Room during coffee hour.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 17 at 7pm in the Common Room. We will watch *Disturbing the Peace*. This film follows former enemy combatants—Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters, many of whom served years in prison.

Church Events Continued...

WAYS TO HELP: YES Meal Prep
Monday, Sept. 17 at 9am in the kitchen. We will serve a baked potato bar and fruit. Want to help? Contact Kim at kjcallaghan@hotmail.com. Every month Kim and her team prepare a meal for Youth Emergency Services (YES).

Women's Religious Studies Covenant Group
Thursday, Sept. 20 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. This group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. Our book is *Lifecraft* by Forrest Church. We welcome all self-identified women, and if you are interested, please contact Rae: raeb1@hotmail.com.

Game Night Hosted by the Young Adult Group
Friday, Sept. 21 at 6pm in the Common Room. All are invited to join the Young Adults for this event. We will have childcare! Bring snacks and board games. Contact youngadults@firstuomaha.org.

CUUPS Mabon Ritual
Sunday, Sept. 23 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. Please join us for our Mabon Ritual as led by Katrina Schmidt and Sara Switzer. Mabon is the midharvest festival. We take a few moments to honor the changing seasons and celebrate the second harvest. We will observe the balance of dark and light as the wheel of the year turns to the Autumnal Equinox. The Ritual will begin promptly at 6:30pm. Please arrive between 6:00 and 6:15pm for discussion prior to the ritual. A potluck will be held after so please bring something to share. Childcare will be provided.

Book Club
Monday, Sept. 24 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. Our book is *Enlightenment Now* by Steven Pinker. Questions? Contact Dave at drichardson821@gmail.com.

Taoism Discussion Group
Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. Join us to discuss anything and everything related to Taoism! As Taoism is best understood through practice rather than theory,

the goal of this group is to provide a participatory space to explore how Taoism is applied in daily life, with an emphasis on experience. For more information, contact Geoff at gerickson03@gmail.com.

POPS: Parents of Preschoolers
Saturday, Sept. 29 at 5:45pm in the Common Room. All parents of preschoolers (from littles through primary grades) are invited to attend POPs Nights to connect with other parents from both First and Second Unitarian communities. Childcare is provided on-site. Bring a dish to share and BYOB. Grown-ups will gather in the Common Room. Kindly RSVP (for adults and children) to Sarah Eades Hamilton (email: seades.hamilton@gmail.com).

Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, September 30 after the Sunday service. Join us as we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of our beautiful and historic church. See page 2 and page 9 for more details.

Recurring Events

Women's Religious Studies Group
 This group meets every Thursday, except for the 3rd week of the month at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. We're reading *Idiot's Guide to Philosophy* by Jay Stevenson. For questions or information, please contact Linda Parker, lparkerlib@gmail.com.

Dharma Chautauqua Meeting
Every Thursday, 6pm to 7:30pm, in the Whitney Young Classroom. This group explores the liberating practice of *vipassana* (insight) meditation. More info can be found online here: dharma.chautauqua.drycreekhost.net/.

Bridge Group
Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the Conference Room at 11:30am. If you've played before, come for some entertainment and time at the game table. Novices welcome too. Contact Scott Kemper at scott.kemper@gmail.com.

YRUU (Youth Group) *Meets every Wednesday at 7pm in the Common Room.* See page 11 for more info.

Choir Rehearsals
First Rehearsal: *Wednesday, Sept. 5 in the Sanctuary.* Rehearsals start at 7pm and conclude by 8:45pm. For more information email: choirdirector@firstuomaha.org. See flyer on page 17.

Parent's Choice Listening Circle—Open to new members!
Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:45am in the Merritt Lounge. All grown-ups are welcome to join this listening circle to enjoy in-depth discussion of various topics, with childcare provided in the church nursery. For questions or to join, please contact Sarah Eades Hamilton (402-306-6339/seades.hamilton@gmail.com).

AHA Listening Circle--Open to new members!
Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:45am in the Merritt Lounge. Our next meeting happens Sept. 16. In this Listening Circle 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. Babysitting provided upon request. Please contact AHA@firstuomaha.org.

Future Events

Blessing Bag Day
Friday, October 12, 9am to 11am. See page 14 for information.

Start Up Workshop
Saturday, October 13, 9:30am to 4pm in the Common Room. All board members, team leaders, and staff are invited to attend this workshop. Contact the [church office](#) for more details.

Heart & Hand Annual Auction
Friday, October 26. See page 9 for details. Donations can be accepted now. Email auction@firstuomaha.org with questions and donations.

Introducing Bella

Bella is Rev. Michelle's service dog. She was bred by Guiding Eyes for the Blind and she is a full-bred Labrador Retriever. Bella was trained by a professional non-profit organization called NEADS. She attended Puppy Early Learning School from 8 weeks old until the time she was placed in a Prison Puppy training program. She stayed with her inmate and full-time trainer during the week and went home with a weekend puppy raiser each weekend. Erin, her puppy raiser, helped reinforce the training she received during the week and introduced her to public settings like movie theaters, stores, and restaurants. At 18 months, Bella was matched with Rev. Michelle and they trained together at the NEADS campus for a week and a half. Bella and Michelle have been together ever since.



Bella is trained as a mobility assistance dog. She performs tasks that help with pain reduction and balance. She can turn lights on and off, close doors (the dishwasher door is her favorite!), retrieve items from the fridge, find Michelle's phone, summon help, retrieve keys and other items dropped on the floor, bring Michelle her socks, shoes, or cane and take socks off—to name just a few! Bella is also trained as a ministry dog and can assist with pastoral care.

Bella loves to meet and interact with other people, especially kids, though she may sometimes decide she can't lose her focus on Michelle. When Bella is given permission to interact with other people, she is given a special command: "Say Hello." In general, it is better to interact with Bella while Michelle is sitting down or standing without the leash and while Bella is not working i.e. listening to verbal commands from Michelle. If you are unclear about whether it is an appropriate time to interact with Bella, just ask Rev. Michelle if it's okay!

Soul Matters Groups Forming

These small groups meet monthly for no more than two hours at a time and begin in September. When participants enroll, they will select a regular time slot from among four options.



Q: What is Soul Matters?

A: These small, relational groups made up of six to ten people led by facilitators meet monthly to establish and nurture themselves in this community, to explore and engage monthly religious service themes in more depth, and to reconnect with their deepest selves, life's gifts, and needs greater than their own. You can learn more at this link: www.firstuomaha.org/soulmatters.

Group sessions (all begin in September):

Group 1: 3rd Sunday of the Month 12pm in the Whitney Young Room

Group 2: 3rd Monday of the Month 7pm in the Merritt Lounge

Group 3: 3rd Tuesday of the Month 6pm in the Merritt Lounge

Group 4: 4th Sunday of the Month 12pm in the Merritt Lounge

You can sign-up online! See here: www.firstuomaha.org/soulmattersup

Please join us for our Sunday Forum focused on the Soul Matters Program and small groups happening on September 9th at 9:30am in the Common Room. See page 2 for forum details.

Letter from the Church President

Dear Members and Friends of First Unitarian Church,

August and September are times of new beginnings; the start of a new school year, the changing of the season, and fortunately for us, the beginning of Rev. Michelle LaGrave's tenure as our Interim Minister.

Our Soul Matters theme for September is 'Vision,' specifically, 'What does it mean to be a people of vision?' It defines vision as 'The practice of intentional imagination.' Our future is one of the five focus points of Interim Ministry (Heritage, Leadership, Mission, Connection, and Future), upon which the Board has modeled our Annual Vision of Ministry. We must use our critical vision to examine our past and our creative vision to envision our future. Far too often we have turned away from seeing what we don't want to in our past. This is a time we must allow ourselves to take an honest look at our past and how we arrived where we are today.

In early August, the Board spent several hours at a 'retreat' studying our governing documents, examining how we work together as a board, drafting an Annual Vision of Ministry for the next two years, and discussing challenges we are facing and will face during the coming years. We learned that Interim Ministry is not a time for growth, but we still must work to understand where we are now, how we function, and the implications that our processes, procedures, and norms have for growth, stagnancy, or shrinkage.

In the area of Heritage, we are certainly ahead! The Heritage Task Force led by Dave Richardson has published a book, planned a Sunday service, and a celebration of the building centennial we celebrate this September. We still have much work to do in addressing past challenges and conflicts that have been covered up, swept under the rug, or assumed to have disappeared. We must not repeat the same patterns that have caused us to lose ministers, members, friends, and damaged our reputation in the community at large. This is a time for honest reflection and each of us owning our parts of the system.

Leadership is an area in which I noted several challenges during my time on the MTC last year. Too often leadership becomes a life sentence. They begin to feel that they are the only one who can do what they do and are unable or unwilling to pass on their role. When new people join their team, any suggestions or new ideas are taken as a personal insult. We need to establish healthy and time-specific leadership rotations. We need to provide long-time leaders with opportunities for self-care, and empower new leaders with the knowledge and skills to help them succeed.

Our President-Elect Joseph Schaaf is working with Team and Committee leaders to develop Mission Statements for each team which tie in to the Board's Annual Vision of Ministry, because that is where the magic happens. The Board alone cannot accomplish the Annual Vision of Ministry. The Board developed the AVOM based on congregational feedback from the Stewardship Campaign's feedback sessions this spring, as well as feedback from exit interviews facilitated by Regional staff, completed by the Board and Rev. Frank. The Teams are part of the Ministry arm of the church, where the vital activities of our church are carried out. We seek to improve our church environment by embracing radical hospitality, de-centering whiteness, living our values, and becoming a place that is truly welcoming to all who identify with our Unitarian Universalists principles.

Connection is perhaps one of our weakest areas. Historically, our church has intentionally distanced itself from the UUA and the Region due to monetary issues or a desire to maintain our independence. Why do we isolate ourselves? Second Unitarian Church is located a mere 20 minutes away from First. Resources from the MidAmerica Region and the UUA are accessible with just a few clicks on that smartphone in your pocket. Few among us know about our fledgling relationship with our sister church, Clair Memorial United Methodist Church. Few in our congregation are connected to the Omaha Sanctuary Network, OTOC, the Tri-Faith Initiative, the River City Mixed Chorus, Heartland Pride, and countless other organizations in the area that share many of our values and priorities. We are not alone.

While this year may be focused on examining our past and present, planning for the future will be more of a focus in the second year of Rev. Michelle's Interim Ministry. Of the most terrifying of Scrooge's three ghost friends, the future is the most mysterious and enigmatic. I believe that everything we do is for those who have yet to walk through our doors. We must build our community out of bricks, not straw or sticks. Temporary fixes leave us vulnerable to being blown down by a few huffs and puffs. During the next two years, we must prepare for the future by cleaning out the crumbs from under the rugs, sweeping the cobwebs from the corners, wiping the sleep from our eyes, taking off our rose-colored glasses, and sharpening our focus. We will receive visits from the ghosts of First Unitarian past, present, and future. We are all responsible for listening carefully to the ghosts and writing the next chapters in our story together.

Peace,
Maria Wallace, President, Board of Trustees

A Message from the Living Our Values (LOV) Task Force

The LOV Task Force has been meeting and connecting with church leaders and members over the last month and a half and is steadily working to identify what we can do to fulfill our team's purpose.

The LOV Task Force has the broad purpose of working collaboratively with the church leadership to create a culture where anyone drawn to our Unitarian Universalist values will feel welcome in our church.

Our team has connected with our new Interim Minister, Rev. Michelle LaGrave as well as other community members and we are pleased to be reminded how much hope there is for our future. The work that we need to do as a church over the next year or two will be difficult but worthy of our dedication and energy.

At the end of the day we are called by our Unitarian Universalist faith in covenant with each other to support everyone's inherent worth and dignity as well as their free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

We are called to communicate with each other with respect, empathy, and grace, even as we work through difficult community issues that have their roots in institutional and societal racism, xenophobia, and division.

We realize that this is a complex and messy process, especially when we as a Midwestern community can have a tendency to be "Midwest nice" and generally avoid overt conflict all together.

As we celebrate 150 years of being a congregation, we owe it to those who will follow us in the next 150 years to do the hard work to look inside ourselves and work with each other to be the change we wish to see in the world.

We must find a better way to serve each other as well as the community outside of our walls. There are community members who need to seek refuge from a world that feels and looks chaotic and unkind. We owe it to them and ourselves to become a better version of our community so that we can be a light in the dark and a shelter in the storm to those who seek to be in community with us.

“Building bridges between our divisions,
I reach out for you. Won't you reach out for me?
With all of our voices and all of our visions,
Friends, we can make such sweet harmony”
(Hymn 1023, *Singing The Journey*, teal hymnal)

If you have concerns or wish to connect with the LOV Task Force personally, you can email us at lov@firstuomaha.org or call Ben Wallace at 402-680-6226.

With Peace and Love,
Ben Wallace on behalf of the LOV Task Force
(The LOV Task Force Members are Sarah Copeland, Shawne Johnson, Peg Pidgeon, and Ben Wallace)

Pictured below: On Aug. 26th, people made hats in the Common Room. These hats will be worn on Sept. 30th for our 100-Birthday Celebration. See page 2 and the following page for details about our anniversary event. **Please join us on Sept. 30th at 10:30am for the special service!**



Party, pumpkins, potluck, purchases! Put your “heart and hand” in our service auction!

Save the date: **Friday, October 26th, 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. Of course, many volunteer “hearts and hands” are needed to pull off this big event!

It’s not too early—ponder your donations and volunteer to help. 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? What intriguing items might *you* donate to inspire shopping frenzy? 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 itself features delicious food (Fall Favorites potluck and desserts), 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-5th grade, with Halloween activities.

The church budget requires the FUNdraising Team to raise \$15,000, most of which comes from the auction. Past auctions have met or exceeded this goal and been fun parties as well. Join us to make this year’s auction equally successful in support of the church.

For auction information, go to: the auction flyer in this Flame on page 16, the Auction Table at church (starting Sept 9), the Auction Website (through church website or directly at www.charityauction.bid/2018HHAuction, email auction@firstuomaha.org, or call Katrina (402-916-9741) or Donna (402-699-3183). See you October 26th!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
A ONE-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION OF

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018
10:30 A.M.

A COFFEE AND CAKE RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE.

A REDEDICATION OF THE BUILDING

See Facebook event for more details: www.facebook.com/events/328940257846103/

Quilt Project for Church Anniversary

THE GOAL:

To create a lovely quilt that contains a square for each church member (children of members can also have a square). There will be special squares to honor our beloved members who have passed away. Barb Dewell and Nancy Scott have volunteered to work on this project and hope to have the quilt ready by spring for a special event. If you can help with sewing, please contact the church office: 402-345-3039 ext. 101, admin@firstuomaha.org.

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

Barb Dewell and Nancy Scott will have a table set up in the Common Room during coffee hour each Sunday. Come to the table, sign your fabric and then give the square to them. If you can't find a fabric, don't worry! They will have selections available to you at the table. If you have questions about the project or want to volunteer with sewing, you can talk to them at coffee hours in September.

WHAT WE NEED FROM CHURCH MEMBERS:

Find a piece of fabric that is special to you. Perhaps you would want the fabric to be your favorite color or have a small image on it (like a boat, or a cat, or a dog). Note: the fabric must be 100% cotton. Any fabric store sells "fat quarters" which are inexpensive and would be good to use for this. Please bring a square of fabric that is at least 6 inches by 6 inches. (Barb is figuring out how large the squares will be for the final product--most likely they will be 3 in x 3 in). We estimate that we will have 300 squares total. Turn in your fabric to Barb and Nancy at coffee hours in September.

DEADLINE TO HAND IN YOUR FABRIC:

Sunday, October 7th

That is the last Sunday Barb and Nancy will be in the Common Room with their materials.

If you need more information or have questions, please contact the church office—we will put you in touch with Nancy and Barb.

Post questions/comments in the Facebook event here: www.facebook.com/events/313741085864358/
(Please join the Facebook event for more details and info—all info shared on Facebook will also be shared on the quilt web page on the church website. Link: www.firstuomaha.org/quilt)

You can also talk with Barb and Nancy during the coffee hours in September. They will be glad to answer questions.

Thank you for helping us create a special memento during this anniversary year!



Pictured to the left, a mock-up of the quilt by Barb Dewell.

A Note from Jan

Fall seems like the beginning of the year to me. In the academic calendar, fall is the season of fresh beginnings. Although we grieve the loss of summer, I have found our new minister, Rev. Michelle, presents fresh perspectives and opportunities for growth.

This is the year in our three-year rotation where we study our UU heritage. It is good to remember that we have our own rich traditions that ground and affirm good ways of living. Rev. Michelle describes our seven principles as guidelines for behavior rather than a belief system. In our covenant as UU's we promise to hold up the principles as necessary to living as Unitarian Universalists.

YRUU, our youth group for grades 7-12, will begin with a parent/youth meeting to introduce newcomers and to welcome returning youth and their families. This youth-led group is a joint group with Second Unitarian. We are looking forward to another year that supports the lives of youth and their needs in our church community.

Our nursery is energized to care for our youngest ones, too. Andrea is our nursery coordinator. She is organizing childcare on Sunday and whenever needed. She is helped by Meagan and Heidi. Brian Callaghan will continue to offer consistency and his own unique toddler humor.

—Jan Wilson, Director of Religious Education

YRUU (Youth Group)

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists is a combined group of youth from First and Second Unitarian Churches. Youth are in 7th—12th grades. Our youth love the acceptance and belonging this group provides. Youth are free to be themselves in a truly supportive and fun community. Adult advisers guide them in the areas of community building, social action, worship, learning, leadership, and congregational involvement. The youth group meets September to May every Wednesday at 7pm in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church.

Have a teen who wants to join? Contact the youth group leaders at yruuomaha@gmail.com. Please attend our first youth and parent meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, August 29 at 7pm in the Common Room**.

Important Note about the Church Roof

The first week of August, we had both the church building roof and the RE Wing roof inspected. We found there are leaks. Past attempts to patch these areas have proven to be temporary fixes and have not stopped the leaks. We are assessing the damage and weighing our options which will include getting bids for new roofs on both buildings. In our attic space, which is above the "crow's nest" (which we use for storage of cleaning supplies and files), mold was found. It is contained, but we caution everyone to please not enter the attic space. We take this issue seriously and will be working hard to repair the damage, remove the mold, and replace the roofs in a timely manner. If you have questions, please contact the [church office](#) or [Joe Schaaf](#), president-elect.

Parking at Church

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

Lately, we have noticed that our parking lot is used by Midtown Crossing residents and shoppers. We want our lot available to church visitors on Sunday mornings—our lot is not very big and we want to be welcoming on Sunday mornings. Very soon, we will have windshield decals (stickers) available to church members and friends. They will be small and you can just place them on your windshield so we know that your car belongs in the church lot. More details will be coming out via the enews and in the October newsletter. If you plan to park in the church lot overnight for some reason, please contact the [church office](#) in advance so we are made aware. Thank you for your help!

Hope in Action

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

WHO IS SERVED?

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

WHO CAN HELP?

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

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

WHAT SUPPORT CAN BE EXPECTED?

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

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

HOW TO ASK FOR SUPPORT

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

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

WHO DECIDES WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE OFFERED?

Hope in Action will use a team approach, so at least three members of Hope in Action must participate in determining the nature of the response.

COMMUNITY MEALS

Every Saturday, churches in our area join together to cook a meal, serve their neighbors and bring a sense of community to our neighborhood at First Baptist Church. Our church has committed to the following Saturday for Community Meals: **Sept. 8th.**

We will need people to help with desserts, cooking, serving and cleaning up. Thank you to everyone who has already helped with meals earlier this year. See next page for details.

Diane Withem,
dianewithem@gmail.com.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Each week generous people put change in the collection plate. This change goes to the Sunday School kids who decide what to do with the money. In the past they have helped Community Meals and International Bridges for Justice. The kids are now donating this change to the **Neighborhood Ministry Team**, which purchases bus tickets and food cards and gives out

blessing bags to people who come to the church door from our area. Your change makes a difference! Thank you for your generosity!

SHARE THE PLATE

Each month one-half of the loose currency collected in the offering plate is donated to a local cause that advances important principles of Unitarianism. Our Share the Plate recipient for September is **Planned Parenthood**.

Go to this website for more information:

www.plannedparenthood.org

OTOC Events

See OTOC events at this web page:
www.firstuomaha.org/otoc.

Share the Plate 2019

Do you know a nonprofit organization that should be considered for a month in our Share the Plate program? Organizations should be nonprofits and should have a local impact. Please let the MTC know as soon as possible. The MTC makes the decision in the fall for the next year's schedule. The form to fill out is here:

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ug-d/6ac81d_60d1e8c496734397b892cbca2823df70.pdf.

Please email completed forms to mtc@firstuomaha.org or mail the form to the church office.

Ways You Can Get Involved

Community Meals--New Date

Happy end of summer Community Meals volunteers! We have three more meals to serve before the Community Meals program ends. We will be changing our September date (we were booked for 9/22) to **Saturday, September 8**. We will serve a chicken casserole, (or baked chicken), salad, bread, and ice cream sandwiches and cookies. If you would like to help that day, we will need about six people. Want to bake cookies? Let me know, please! Deliver them to First Baptist church on Sept. 8 between 10am and 11am or to First Unitarian Church on Friday, Sept. 7 (9am to 3pm). Mark them clearly as Community Meals and place them on the kitchen counter please. Let me know if you would like to help on that Saturday or if you'd like to bake. Contact: dianewithem@gmail.com or 402.679.8916.

YES Meal Prep in September

Monday, Sept. 17 at 9am in the kitchen. We will serve a baked potato bar and fruit. Want to help? Contact Kim at kjcallaghan@hotmail.com. Every month Kim and her team prepare a meal for Youth Emergency Services (YES). See this website for more info: www.yesomaha.org.

Social Justice Team -- Get Involved!

Peg Pidgeon, the Social Justice Coordinator, is reaching out to see if two or three people would be interested in helping to re-form the Social Justice Team. Sharon Conlon and Jody Petrow have already agreed to be a part of the committee and a few more people interested in fighting the good fight would be most appreciated. We expect to meet once a month to discuss Social Justice issues and possible actions. Peg's email is sjconnect@firstuomaha.org if you are interested.

Blessing Bag Day 2018

Friday, October 12. Each year we gather to put together Blessing Bags so the church office can hand them out to people in need who visit our church for assistance. Come put together the bags on Blessing Bag Day and/or donate much needed items to the cause. See page 14 for the list of donations needed. This list will be updated on the web page: www.firstuomaha.org/blessingbags.

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.

Another Way to Help: Give a Lift

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

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

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

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

Outside Opportunities

Elders for the Earth: A Retreat in the Spirit of Chautauqua.

Dates: October 7-9, 2018 at Mahoney State Park. Registration open now through September 25. For all the details, visit: elders4theearth.com/

Temporary Protected Status Bus Tour Workshop and Table Talk on Tuesday, September 4th at 7 pm

Join OTOC as we welcome the TPS Journey for Justice Caravan raising awareness for Temporary Protected Status on a bus tour across the nation. Learn about TPS, the current situation TPS families are facing, and possible ways to resolve this situation from local immigration experts, and meet TPS leaders from across the country and locally from Omaha. Tuesday's events are being hosted by Countryside Community Church (8787 Pacific St.) in Memorial Hall. More info is here: www.firstuomaha.org/otoc.

Blessing Bags: Donations Needed

Help First U Help Our Neighbors

The Midtown Helping Hands Team (Neighborhood Ministry Team) needs more Blessing Bags. The cooler months and 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: soap, shampoo, a comb, chap stick, cotton swabs, Band-Aids, a new pair of socks, warm gloves. 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 (10/12/2018).

Donations needed (You can donate in increments):

Packages of cotton swabs (we'll need 1,000 swabs so we can make 100 little packages)

Shaving cream (small travel size) - 100

Small packages of Band-Aids - 100

Chap stick - 100

8 oz. water bottles - 100

Disposable razors - 100

Bus Tickets (OMetro, single, adult) – 100

Breakfast or granola bars - 100

Travel size toothpaste - 100

Travel liquid soap - 100

Toothbrushes - 100

Travel size deodorant - 100

Travel size sunscreen - 100

Gloves- 100 pairs

Stocking Hats - 100

Hand wipes travel packages - 100

Nail clippers - 100

Feminine Hygiene Products - packages of pads and tampons

Tube socks - 200 pair

Note: Thanks to generous donors, hairbrushes and the bags themselves are NOT needed.

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

<http://www.firstuomaha.org/blessingbags>

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

New to Our Church?

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

The First Steps Class will take place on
Sunday, October 28 at 11:45am
in the Merritt Lounge

If you are interested, RSVP to Carrie at coordinator@firstuomaha.org or stop by the Welcome & Engagement Table (in the Common Room downstairs) on Oct. 28 and we'll get you to the right room. Grab a cup of coffee and we will see you there! If you need childcare to attend, please let Carrie know when you RSVP.



Pathways to Membership—Save these dates!*

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

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

RSVP to Carrie at coordinator@firstuomaha.org. If you need childcare, please let Carrie know.

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

*Note: the class dates have changed from last month. We will not have sessions this fall.

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

"Heart & Hand" Auction Party

Friday, October 26, 2018 6-9 p.m.

At First Unitarian Church 3114 Harney St.

A major FUNdraiser for the church operations budget

Eat, Party, Shop!

What will YOU Donate??



AUCTION CATEGORIES

Great Goods: physical items to sell at auction

Gourmet Gatherings: sharing meals-focus on food

Giving & Receiving: home-made goodies, lessons, chores

Group Events/Classes: concerts, classes, parties, activities

Generous Businesses: non-profit and company donations



Casual-Informal-Fun!

FREE Childcare
by reservation

GO ON-LINE to website!

On-line sales of many items ahead of auction

TWO growing catalogs!



Delicious Food!
Fall Favorites Potluck

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

HALLOWEEN

Costumes Encouraged
(but optional)

Prizes: Best in Category!

1. TV Characters
 2. Period Dress celebrate the church's 100th anniversary
 3. Spook's Choice open Raffle Basket!
- Door Prizes!

To DONATE items for Auction

To VOLUNTEER to help out

VISIT the Auction Area (Common Room)

EMAIL auction@firstuomaha.org

To SIGN UP for the potluck or childcare

To GET A BIDDER # for on-line shopping

GO ON-LINE: <http://www.firstuomaha.org>

CALL Katrina 402-916-9741/Donna 402-699-3183

Donation deadline is October 22 (sooner is better, of course)

Studies show
Singing is like
Yoga.

But we won't ask you to
wrap your legs around your neck.

Join the Choir!

Singing builds confidence, reduces stress and anxiety and raises endorphins. No kidding! 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 5, 2018 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

Interim Minister

Rev. Michelle LaGrave
minister@firstuuomaha.org

Director of Religious Education

Jan Wilson
dre@firstuuomaha.org

Membership Coordinator

Carrie Helmberger
coordinator@firstuuomaha.org

Church Administrator

Catharine Dixon
admin@firstuuomaha.org

Choir Director

William Miller
choirdirector@firstuuomaha.org

Organist

Pat Will

Choir Accompanist

J. Gawf

EMR Director

Stan Harper

Minister Emeriti

Ronald Knapp
 Frank Rivas

Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Laudi
childcare@firstuuomaha.org

Nursery Aides

Meagan McIntosh
 Heidi Levensque

Custodian

Bobby Medrano

THE FLAME

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

Editor/Designer: Cat Dixon

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

Flame Mailing Team:

Debbie Hunsberger, Lois Norris,
 Linda Hruska, Kim Callaghan

Meet Our Leaders

Board Members

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

Trustees of the Capital Trust

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

Ministry Team Council

Nellie Chenoweth, Dave Richardson, Joe Schaaf, Rev. Michelle LaGrave
 Email: mtc@firstuuomaha.org

Nominating Committee

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

Ministry Teams and Team Leaders

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

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

www.firstuuomaha.org

402-345-3039

Church Events

Welcome Rev. Michelle Event

Sunday, Sept 2 during coffee hour in the Common Room. See page 4.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 3 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

Compassionate Communication Group

We will meet at 7pm in the Common Room on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in September and October. See page 4.

CommUnity Night

Friday, Sept. 7 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

WAYS TO HELP:

COMMUNITY MEAL

Saturday, Sept 8, offsite. See page 13.

Private Wedding

Saturday, Sept 8 at 3pm.

Get Connected Fair: A Small-Group Sign-Up Extravaganza.

Sunday, Sept. 9 during Coffee Hour in the Common Room. See page 4.

Young Adult Discussion Group

Sunday, Sept. 9 at noon in the Whitney Young Classroom. See page 4.

Women's Alliance

Monday, Sept. 10 in the Common Room. See page 4.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7pm in the Common Room.

AHA! "Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics!" Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 13 in the Common Room. See page 4.

The 3F Book Bonanza Group

Friday, Sept. 14th at 7pm in the lounge. See page 4.

The Flame Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 15 at noon.

Private Wedding

Saturday, Sept 15 at 4pm.

Jonathan Haidt Book Groups

Various times and dates. See page 4.

Leadership Talk Back

Sunday, Sept. 16 at 11:30am in the Common Room. See page 4.

People's Film Festival

Monday, Sept. 17 at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 4.

WAYS TO HELP:

YES Meal Prep

Monday, Sept 17 at 9am in the kitchen. See page 13.

Women's Religious Covenant Group

Thursday, Sept. 20 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5.

Game Night Hosted by the Young Adult Group

Friday, Sept. 21 at 6pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

Private Wedding

Saturday, Sept 22 at 4pm.

CUUPS Mabon Ritual

Sunday, Sept. 23 at 6:30pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

Book Club

Monday, Sept. 24 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. See page 5.

Taoism Discussion Group

Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 6:30pm in the Common Room, See page 5.

Private Wedding

Saturday, Sept 29 at 2pm.

POPS: Parents of Preschoolers

Saturday, Sept. 29 at 5:45pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, September 30 at 10:30am. Special Service. Special Coffee Hour to follow in the Common Room. See page 2.

Recurring...

Bridge Group

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

Parents Listening Circle

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

AHA Listening Circle

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

Soul Matters Groups

Various meeting dates. See page 6.

YRUU (Youth Group)

Wednesdays at 7pm in the Common Room. See page 11.

Choir Rehearsals

First Rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept 5 in the Sanctuary. See page 17.

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.

Future Events...

Blessing Bag Day

Friday, October 12, 9am to 11am. See page 14.

Start Up Workshop for Church Leaders and Board Members

Saturday, October 13, 9:30am to 4pm in the Common Room. See page 5.

Heart & Hand Annual Auction

Friday, October 26. See pages 9 and 16.

First Steps Class

Sunday, 10/28 in the Merritt Lounge. See page 15.

Social Media & First U

Find our public Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/firstuuomaha/>

Find us on Twitter here:

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

Be sure to like the church and follow us!

Celebrate

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
A ONE-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION OF

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

10:30 A.M.

A COFFEE AND CAKE RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE.

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

www.firstuomaha.org