

June 2015

The Flame



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

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this Month

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Award Winners



Sunday Service is at 10:30am

Photographer: Kate Wiig

June 7

"*Ikce Wicasa*"

Charles Trimble

Ikce wicasa is Lakota for "common man." It is also the phrase used to describe a wise man, one who sees himself and the world as they are. Rev. Frank's good friend Chuck Trimble began his life on the Pine Ridge Reservation and became the principal founder of the American Indian Press Association and an executive director of the National Congress of American Indians. He has been called *ikce wicasa*, and it fits. This Sunday is also Toddler Appreciation Sunday. See page 9 for details.

June 14

"A Vision of Equality"

Rev Portia Cavitt

Rev Portia, pastor of Clair Memorial United Methodist Church, has been in dialogue with our church because she has a vision of what we can do together. This morning she shares that vision.

June 21

Youth Coming of Age Service

Come and enjoy our annual intergenerational service and listen to this year's Coming of Age participants talk about their journey in looking at what they value. The service will be followed by a Father's Day Brunch which will be a fundraiser for the YRUU and their participation in the IncluCity program.

June 28

TBA

Rev.Elations

Monthly Column from our Minister, Rev. Frank Rivas

Immediately after the annual meeting, Jan Wilson presented me with a gift created by the children. It is an album entitled "We Call Copper" with paintings of the recently called Rev. Copper. (Copper, Anne's and my dog, comes to work with me on weekdays, but apparently our roles have reversed in the eyes of some.)

Rev. Copper thanks you. She is delighted that you appreciate her ministry, and she looks forward to staying in her adopted home. She promises to bring to the church all that she learns from her daily walks: where the good smells are, which dogs are the most fun to play with, and how to be joyful even on cloudy days.

I hope that I can do as well.

I am also moved by a moment of synchronicity. As we begin our relationship with Clair Memorial United Methodist Church, the youth in the YRUU program are planning an IncluCity retreat next fall. The retreat will help them move beyond stereotypes of race, wealth, sexuality, and much more. The retreat will help them to recognize the unutterable worth of each individual. For youth and for adults, this is the work of our church.

I am delighted to be doing the work with you.

Blessings and love,
Frank

Lunch With or Without the Minister (Summer Schedule)

Although the Lunch With the Minister gathering is officially on break for the summer, several of the regular attendees have decided to continue the Thursday lunch discussion group throughout the summer. Rev. Frank will be in attendance when his schedule allows. This is an informal bring-your-own-lunch gathering discussing random topics, which meets at noon on Thursdays in the church Common Room. It is often regarding church life but regularly includes community, national, international topics as well. All are welcome – drop in.

Notes from Church President *by Jack Round*

Settled Minister

At our annual meeting on May 17th, we overwhelmingly voted to call Reverend Frank Rivas as our settled minister, and he accepted. Frank said he'd like to stay at least through our 150th anniversary in 2019, and we are very excited that he will continue the work he has done so well.

Goals for the Year

Over the next month or so, the Board of Trustees will be putting together goals for the new church year. Among those goals will be supporting the hiring and on-boarding of a membership coordinator, implementation of a member engagement system, roll-out and implementation of covenant groups, and intentionally working on building the relationships between First and Second Unitarian Churches in a number of possible areas.

Your Ideas

Please share your ideas for goals for the year. Here are some examples from members of the congregation: Dean Christensen has an idea to start an investment club at church where he and others with expertise can mentor/teach/collaborate with others on making good investments. Cy Leise and his wife Marcia are passionate about ethical eating and would like us to show more leadership on this issue. Sheri Conner would like to expand our religious education offerings. Reverend Frank passionately articulates that as more people are leaving other religions, they seem to be expressing a preference for the non-dogmatic, personal theology our church promotes. Ideas and observations such as these will likely be part of what the Board attempts to support and get done this year. Please share your ideas, and we'll attempt to integrate them into our list of goals. Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Jack

402-630-5492

Contact the board by emailing board@firstuomaha.org or email Jack at president@firstuomaha.org.

Church Events

Book Club

Monday, June 1 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge. Our book selection is *Bird Flu: A Virus of Our Own Hatching* by Michael Greger, M.D. All are invited to attend our meetings. Please contact Dave Richardson at drichardson@westside66.org for more information. We will meet again in August.

The Women's Religious Studies Group

This group is discussing *The Making of Buddhist Modernism* by David McMahan. We meet in the Merritt Lounge from 1pm to 2:30pm most Thursdays. Questions? Contact Marcia Leise at mkleise@cox.net.

CommUUnity Night

Friday, June 5 at 5:30pm in the Common Room. CommUUnity Nights are a fun, laid-back all-church event! There is always plenty of food and we really want you to join us! **Parents of Toddlers:** bring your little ones. We will have a paid babysitter on duty. Questions? Contact Jan at dre@firstuomaha.org.

Ministry Team Meeting

Saturday, June 6 at 2pm in the Common Room. Team leaders and interested church friends and members are invited to

attend our meeting. We will discuss live streaming of services, listening circles, and other church-related projects. Contact the [church office](#) for more information.

Spirit Circle

Sunday, June 7 in the Common Room at 7pm. We will be preparing for our membership as a CUUPS group by starting with round table discussion with all members briefly checking in followed by a 10-minute meditation in the church garden. It will be a good time for all to share their vision.

UU Kids' Summer Camp

June 8-12, 9am to 3:30pm
For children in grades K-6th. This special camp will feature experiences in art-making, field trips to art studios, museums and galleries and lots of fun! Contact Jan for more information at dre@firstuomaha.org.

Tolerant Atheist Discussion Group Meeting

Thursday, June 11 at 7pm in the Common Room. The kick-off subject for discussion will be "What kind of TADG do we want?" The impetus for this is my (Jaime Alexander) sense that as we complete our fifth year TADG needs some

organizational stimulation. Reverends Frank Rivas and Ron Knapp have accepted my invitation to speak briefly on their visions for TADG. I explained I wasn't proposing a debate and agreed "different" would be fine. Questions and table discussions will follow. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own dinner opens at 6pm. Agenda starts at 7pm. For information or RSVP, email jaimealexander@cox.net.

Second Saturday Playdate

Saturday, June 13 at 10am in the nursery. You and your toddler/young child are invited to join us on the second Saturday of each month for a play date in the nursery. (If it's nice we can relocate to a nearby playground as well.) Please RSVP to Liz Sagert at esheftersagert@gmail.com.

The Women's Religious Study Covenant Group

Thursday, June 18 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge. Evelyn Whitehill will lead the discussion on "Calling" from our book, *Soul To Soul*. Before attending, you will need to sign a covenant statement. Please contact Evelyn Whitehill at 712-366-2748 or ewhitehill@cox.net.

Church Events Continued...

Pride Parade: Paving the Way

Saturday, June 20. We will march with Second Unitarian Church. To see the parade route please visit this website: <http://heartlandpride.org/pride-2015-festival-paving-the-way>.

We hope everyone can come join us! Questions? Contact Lori at lhefeli@gmail.com.

YRUU Father's Day Brunch

Sunday, June 21 at 11:30am in the Common Room.

The Youth Group will have a brunch fundraiser following the Youth Service. There will be many tasty items available, a great way to thank and celebrate those fathering figures in your life! The cost will be a goodwill donation, suggested amount is \$5 per person or \$20 per family. All proceeds will go towards the Youth Group's participation in the acclaimed IncluCity program next fall and winter. See page 8 for details.

Exploring Humanistic Perspectives in Literature with Ron Knapp: A Pattern Called War

Tuesday, June 23 at 7pm in the Common Room. With selections from Mark Twain, Saint-Exupery, Amy Lowell,

Nancy Byrd Turner, John Gillespie Magee, Jr, Archibald Macleish and perhaps others, these sessions bring together Unitarian humanists, secular humanists and others interested in exploring literature. The sessions take place in an informal coffee house atmosphere, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with a new topic each month and with volunteer readers and time for discussion. Come and have a good time with literature!

Hear Ye, Hear Ye: Shake- speare on the Green

Saturday, June 27

Volunteers (Sirrahs, Mistresses, and Cousins) are needed for this year's Shakespeare on the Green's production of Othello on June 27. Duties include handing out flyers, talking with guests, passing out surveys, and collecting donations. Methinks this year will be just as fun as last year!! There are a few perks for signing up which will be shared at a later day. Please go to: <http://vols.pt/BHo4HR> to sign up to be a volunteer or visit the First Unitarian Facebook page (under events) for a direct link.

Outside Opportunity: Retiree Group

Tuesday, June 9, at 1pm at [Second Unitarian Church](#) (3012 S 119th St, Omaha)

Anyone interested is invited to a presentation by Kathy Krogh, staff member of the Nebraska Tourism Bureau. Kathy will be speaking about various programs of the Commission, particularly the Nebraska Passport Program. The purpose of the Nebraska Tourism Commission is to expand Nebraska's dynamic and diverse travel industry. Retirees Group is not just for persons officially retired—it's for anyone looking for socialization, fun, personal growth and learning.

OTOC Opportunity: Learn the ABC's of Community Organizing

Monday, June 8 and Monday, July 13 at 7pm at Augustana Lutheran Church (3647 Lafayette Ave.)

Learn six of the "universal" ideas and practices of community organizing. Hear from experienced leaders about how and why they have practiced disciplines such as "The Iron Rule" of organizing and principles such as "the action is in the reaction." Contact OTOC for more information at otocfornebraska@gmail.com.

Church Events Coming Up in July & August

UU & You Class

Sunday, July 5 at 11:45am in the Whitney Young Room

Unitarian Universalism and You classes provide an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and our church, along with an opportunity to share our religious journeys. Visitors, newcomers, and the just curious are cordially invited. A light lunch will be served to bolster the always interesting conversation. The class lasts about an hour and 30 minutes so ending time will be about 1:15, although those interested in a brief tour of the church may be a little later. If you need childcare please let us know by the Monday before. RSVPs or questions can be addressed to uuclass@firstuomaha.org or call Jaime Alexander at 402-657-9386.

Community Meals

Saturday, July 18 offsite at First Baptist Church (421 Park Ave, Omaha)

Please join us we serve our neighbors. It's easy to help! Either drop off desserts, help with set-up, volunteer to serve, or assist with the clean up. Contact Diane Withem at dianewithem@gmail.com to get involved.

OWL Facilitator Training

Happening at Second Unitarian Church on July 31 and August 1

OWL stands for Our Whole Lives. It is our sex-and-relationship education class. If you are looking for an opportunity to become a facilitator for your congregation for the kindergarten-first grade and fourth through sixth grade OWL curricula, here's your opportunity! Our friends over at Second Unitarian Church will hold a training session Friday, July 31 and August 1. Times are from 9am to 9pm. The cost for the class registration is \$240 before July 2. After that, the cost rises to \$275. The sessions will be held at Second Unitarian Church. For more information, please go here:

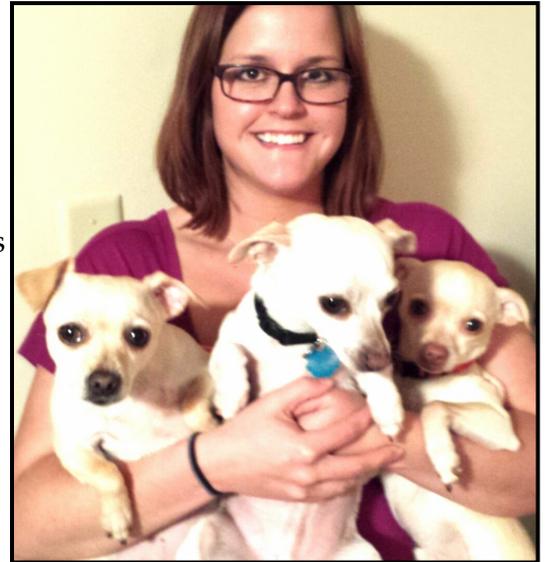
<http://www.2uomaha.org/owl-facilitator-training>.

YRUU Rummage & Book Sale—Saturday, August 1 in the Common Room

Please join us for this event! Help the youth group fundraise for its new program, IncluCity. The IncluCity program works to reduce acts of school violence and bullying by challenging the assumptions, attitudes and beliefs around issues of difference (appearance, gender, race, faith, sexual orientation, ability, etc.). See page 8 for more information. Drop off your items to donate to the sale July 27-30, Monday-Thursday, any time between 9am and 3pm or drop off your items on Friday, July 31 (preferred as that is the date the youth group will be setting up the sale). Then come out and shop on Saturday, August 1. We hope to see you there!

Introducing Jolene! Our New Nursery Manager

My name is Jolene Dalton. I am 24 years old. I am an aunt of 16 adorable nieces and nephews. I am a fur-mother of three dogs and one cat, and I am grateful my loving fiancé supports me in my compassion and love for children and adults. I found my love for children when I started working at UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute. I worked with children with disabilities and learned that no matter the child, every child needs love and support. I currently work at Crossroads of Western Iowa, with special needs adults. I run a waiver home and make sure my clients are happy and supported. I really look forward to working with your children, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Meet Jolene in our Nursery Sundays 10am to noon.



Women's Alliance Merritt Education Fund Recipient: Nadine Keith

Women's Alliance's first recipient of the new Merritt Education Fund is Nadine Keith. She plans on using the donation from Women's Alliance to attend the UUA General Assembly in June. We can't wait to hear about her experience.



YRUU Youth Group to participate in 2015-16 IncluCity Program

The YRUU Youth Group is excited to announce its participation in the 2015-16 IncluCity Program through Inclusive Communities Omaha. The program works to reduce acts of school violence and bullying by challenging the assumptions, attitudes and beliefs around issues of difference (appearance, gender, race, faith, sexual orientation, ability, etc.) and includes a full day workshop for youth and adults, a year-long internship program for two youth that will focus on putting the tenets of the Inclusive Communities program into action, and a 4-day Intensive Residential Program that will be held in Ashland in January. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to learn skills to confront and challenge prejudice, bias and stereotypes and discover new ways to become allies for one another. The program has a significant cost and will require fundraising efforts by our group over the next six months. If community members have questions about the program or are interested in donating towards defraying the program costs, they can contact Ben Wallace or Shawne Coonfare via email at omahayruu@gmail.com or call Ben at 402-680-6226.

Religious Education at First Unitarian:

A Focus on Toddlers for June *by Jan Wilson*

We are embarking on a celebration of our little UUs in the nursery. At our recent Spring Carnival I was delighted to meet so many toddlers and their parents who were enjoying the sunshine and happy baby shrieks.

That day we hatched a plan to bring kids and parents together for a monthly play date from 10am to noon on the second Saturdays in our church nursery. When the weather is nice we can meet in a local park. Liz Sagert is taking charge of this effort. Liz and Adam are Elsa's parents.

We have made a special point of asking this group to attend the Friday, June 5 CommUUnity Night. This event starts at 5:30pm in the Common Room, and consists of games and conversation for the parents, along with a very casual potluck supper. The June 5 CommUUnity Night will be unusual because we have hired a babysitter for the event for the small ones.

That Sunday, June 7, we have designated Toddler Appreciation Sunday. Everyone needs a day, right? Parents are especially invited to be thanked for their contribution to their children's lives and the life of our congregation. We hope to see many little children, until they are whisked back to the nursery.

Were we speaking of the nursery? Celebrations are in order. We are welcoming Jolene Dalton, who is managing our nursery. Jolene works with developmentally challenged adults at Crossroads of Western Iowa. She is delighted to add children to her caretaking time. She will be a welcome addition to our church and especially the families of preschoolers. I hope you will stop in the nursery and meet Jolene. (See opposite page for more information.)

Our Art Camp will go from June 8-12 at church. We still have openings!

Email uusummercamp@firstuomaha.org or just call me at 402-990-2200.

Sincerely,
Jan Wilson, DRE

Jan recommends:

Family Storytelling Concert

Come enjoy an outstanding performance by the extraordinary storyteller Donna Washington on Sunday, June 14, at 2pm at the Joslyn Art Museum (2200 Dodge Street, Omaha). Admission: \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, seniors, Joslyn members and Nebraska StoryArts members.

For more information, call 402-312-4749.

First Unitarian Church of Omaha

September 5 to September 6, 2015

Family Labor Day Weekend Retreat



Registration form for Church Family Retreat

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

___ 1 person attending: \$138

___ 2 people attending: \$111/person

___ 3 people attending: \$99/person

___ 4 people attending: \$89/person

___ 5 or more people attending: \$78/person

\$ _____ Total

(Please note: kids 5 and under are free)

Please list the names of those in your party:

If you require financial assistance please let us know how much you need so we can make sure you are able to attend.

Please place this form in an envelope and send to the church office.

Please make your check payable to First Unitarian Church. Payments and RSVPs are due by Friday, August 21. Space reservations are first come, first served. Thank you!

Highlights

We will gather at Swanson Lodge of the Carol Joy Holling Camp, close to Mahoney State Park.

We will share games, hikes, meals, and worship. In addition, adult activities will include spiritual practices like sitting meditation and yoga (children also welcome); children's activities will include spiritual practices like walking meditation and art projects (adults also welcome). Four meals (Saturday lunch and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch) as well as snacks are included in the price. Family can leave immediately after lunch on Sunday, or enjoy the camp for another couple of hours before returning home. Please join us! **Fill out the form to the left and return it to the church office.**

Hospitality Teams

June is open enrollment month. **This is the time to try out Hospitality Teams!**

These teams take responsibility for all of jobs on a given Sunday. Each team consists of twice as many people as it takes to do these jobs. Our goal is 10-12 people per team. Because each team will have more people than are needed for Sunday, absences will be easily managed within the team.

Here are the Team tasks:

- *Greeters, who distribute the orders of service and receive the offering.*
- *Ambassadors, who welcome new visitors and help them get settled.*
- *Coffee hour hosts, who set up, serve, and clean up after our social time.*



Photographer: Royal Bush

Here is what one person said, "I have met new friends and been able to give back to the church. It's an easy way to get involved! I love my team!"
—Member of Team 3

We are looking for new members for each team now!

Signing up is easy. Just go to: <http://www.firstuomaha.org/#/hospitality-teams/cluuz> or call the church office at 402-345-3039 or email Kim at kjcallaghan@hotmail.com.

The Teams

Odd Month Teams

1st Sunday—*Fireballs*
Leader: Bill Ross

2nd Sunday—*The Un-Holy Rollers*
Leader: Louise Jeffrey

3rd Sunday—*Mindful Ones*
Leader: Kim Callaghan

4th Sunday—*W/W*
Leader: Janet West

Even Month Teams

1st Sunday—*Flaming Chalice*
Leader: Kim Dunovan

2nd Sunday—*Friendly Faces*
Leader: Joe Schaaf

3rd Sunday—*Rounders*
Leader: Jack Round

4th Sunday—*Singing Sensations*
Leader: Kay Lynn Goldner

5th Sunday for any month—*The 5th Sunday Fill-ins*
Leader: Sandy Host

“Teach Your Children Well” —Neil Young, 1971

By Dave Richardson

Religious denominations have always provided the children of members with educational opportunities within and without their walls. Most faiths concentrate on study of their particular sacred texts or on church doctrine.

They are variously called “Sunday school,” “church school,” “Catechism classes,” “Hebrew school” etc. Unitarians just call it “RE” for Religious Education.

Our RE is more likely to focus on everything from World Religions to Social Justice. When taking a college course in art history my daughter (who went through RE here and at Second Unitarian) told her professor that she was not very knowledgeable about some of the subjects of Medieval and Renaissance paintings since her Unitarian “Sunday school” did not cover many Bible stories. The prof said “Unitarian huh, I thought you were going to ask ‘Who is the lady with the baby in all those religious pictures?’” This may be a somewhat inaccurate assumption about our “secular” RE, it does however, illustrate that we do things a bit differently.

This church has always emphasized the importance of Religious Education. Our esteemed late 19th and early 20th Century minister Reverend Newton Mann was known to write poems for children on their

birthdays and have them read aloud to them in their Sunday classes. Even in the rocky times after his departure in 1910 when membership dwindled and the church property on 17th and Cass streets was sold, the Women’s Alliance kept the church going with two activities. The first consisted of simple vesper services for adults and secondly, church school classes for the youth. Up until the 1930s, the RE teachers had the children conduct “Junior Church Services” in their classrooms. These services were complete with their own liturgy printed on their own Orders of Service.

Social service became a large part of RE with the arrival of Louise Henderson as the Assistant Pastor to Reverend Robert Leavens in 1920. Reverend Henderson started the “Lend-a-Hand” club which provided the youth with opportunities to help many of the social service agencies in town. She also organized a summer mission project, whereby many of our older youth went to work with schools in poverty-stricken areas of the Appalachians and began an RE curriculum she called the “Beacon Course” which was aimed at providing age-appropriate teachings on theology, ethics and the humanities. The program brought speakers from the church and from the community at large on various subjects of importance.

Many people have contributed to the RE program over the years. It is impossible to name them all. For a number of years up into the 1940s a

member of the Board of Trustees was appointed to oversee the RE program. Often it was a husband and wife team who took on the RE leadership role.

As the “baby boomers” began to populate our schools and Sunday schools, it was clear that we needed more space for RE. The RE Wing was completed in 1953 and the numbers continued to increase. The job of RE director became an even more critical part of our church life. A few of those names include Mrs. Beryl Eagleson (1948-53), Mr. and Mrs. David Peterson (1954-57), Lois Hansen (1958-64), Mrs. Conrad Wurtz (1965-67), Eddith Buis (1968-70), Joan Gillen (1971-74), Barbara Rippey (1975-81), Melissa Helgeson (1982-93) and Sharon Pierson (1994-5).

Our first full-time RE director was Cheryll Wallace who served from 1996 to 2011. Cheryll served in many additional roles during a period where we were operating without a settled minister. She was succeeded by Meka Tate for two years. Our current director, Jan Wilson, took over in 2013 and has continued a tradition of creating innovative educational opportunities for our younger people.



*Pictured above:
Barb Rippey in 1961.
Cheryll Wallace in 2010.*

Annual Volunteer Awards

Annually, the Nominating Committee solicits congregational input to award and recognize volunteers and to select the Unitarian of the Year. In the past, this was done for awards given on the regional level. This year, the MidAmerican Region did not give awards, but the committee selected the following individuals to be honored for their contributions to First Unitarian Church of Omaha, with awards at the local level. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and to our award winners!

Thank you to everyone who helped in this process with nominations and preparation of materials.

The following awards were presented during the Annual Meeting on May 17, 2015:

Heritage Award—Significant contributions to preserving, understanding, and celebrating our Unitarian Universalist history: **Nellie Chenoweth**

Religious Education Award—For outstanding achievement and excellence in religious growth and learning: **Roman Noriega**

Keeping the Faith Award—For keeping the UU faith alive in the community and touching the lives of congregation and community members in a positive way: **Linda Hess**

Social Justice Award—For witnessing to the ideals of social justice and responsibility so important to our UU heritage:

Lori Hefeli

Social Justice Award Youth:

Jared Kolok

Unsung Unitarian Universalist Award—For a lifetime of actions that inspire, support and express Unitarian Universalism (there are two recipients this year):

Dean Christensen, Jack Perry

Unitarian of the Year Award—Given in recognition of his many years of service to the church and to UU principles:

Ben Wallace. Ben has been a youth advisor in the joint First and Second Unitarian Churches YRUU program for many years. He is one of the founders of the Mid-America Youth Advisory Network. He worked on the Senior Ministry Team in 2012. Congratulations, Ben!



Elected Members

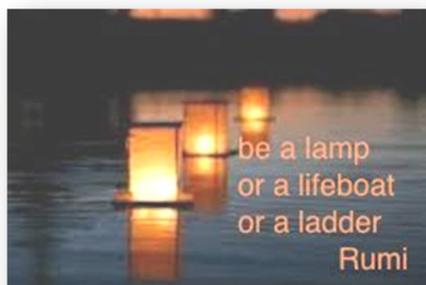
The Nominating Committee selects nominees for positions on the church board and Trustees of the Capitol Trust. Pictured below are the board nominees that were elected at the Annual Meeting on May 17: Jackie Anderegg, President-Elect, and Kabin Thomas. Also pictured are Molly Dewell who will join the Nominating Committee and Evelyn Whitehill who will be a Trustee of the Capital Trust Fund. Not pictured are elected board member, Linda Parker, and Dave Olson, who was elected to serve another term on the Nominating Committee.



The Nominating Committee:
Mary Bort
Kim Callaghan
Abby Cape
Nadine Keith
Dave Olson
Joe Schaaf

What is 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 confidential-

ity 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. You may call the church office and press ext. 105 to leave a telephone message for Hope in Action. Or, you may simply complete a Caring Card located in the church pews and place it in the box

in the church foyer.

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.

What is Community Meals?

Community Meals is an outreach to people in need in our church's neighborhood.

Every Saturday members of various "First" churches and others take turns providing a hot meal and groceries to those in need at First Baptist Church (our neighbor just one block east of our church). First Unitarian Church has been part of this effort for several years. Four times a year our church "caters" and serves the meal and distributes the groceries provided by Trader Joe's. There are First Unitarian Church members who work at the site on a weekly basis and additional help is always welcome. We serve again on July 18. See page 7 for more details or call or email Diane Withem, 402-679-8916, dianewithem@gmail.com.

Parking Garage Info at First Unitarian

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.

Here's the drill: Use any entrance to get in. Punch the button and take the ticket. Use only one exit to get out—on Farnam St. (north-side, middle-level, only one with an attendant.) Give him/her your ticket. 3 hours are free. If you're at church more than 3 hours, run your ticket through the machine that is downstairs in the Common Room for free parking or pay \$1/hour. Thank you for your help!

Note: Please do NOT move the machine. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the church office at admin@firstuomaha.org.



Share the Plate—NAMI

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. In the month of June we share the plate for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

From the NAMI website:

NAMI Nebraska is a nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to **education, support** and **advocacy** with anyone whose life has been touched by **mental illness**. We believe in **recovery** and the hope for a **better future**.

NAMI Nebraska helps unite **parents, spouses, siblings, friends** and people who have a **mental illness** together with **mental health professionals** to fight for **improved treatment**, a better quality of life and **recovery**.

Individuals identify **recovery** as being an ongoing journey and an end result as well as an overall paradigm for **achieving wellness** and **optimal mental health**.

NAMI Nebraska is available to **support persons** on their road to recovery by providing respect and **peer support**. Consumers have a **personal responsibility** for their own self-care and journeys of recovery. **NAMI Nebraska** provides the **support for individuals** and families on their journey.

For more information, please visit: <https://naminebraska.org>.

We're Looking Good: Sid Wilson Turns 99! A Reflection on the Church from a Long- Time Church Member

By Dixie Lemon

I am not one who seeks out meetings just because I think they are fun. I wasn't surprised that the program was so well done; I have learned to expect that. The musicians were outstanding. The choir has grown so much in the last few years and is a joy to hear, as are the soloists.

However, the annual meeting which followed had a feeling of optimism which I hadn't felt in some years. There was an atmosphere of youthful exuberance which permeated everything. Congratulations to all who participated in the program, to the incoming officers and to those who received awards. The church is in capable and energetic hands and that pleases me no end. Thanks so much.

June 1, Sid, a long-time church member, will be beginning his 99th year. To celebrate, Sid will drink two beers a week in the year leading up to the century mark. His son, John Wilson, will join him at various establishments or at his apartment at Brookstone Meadows. He would enjoy company if you care to make history in this Beer-a-thon. If you would like to take part please call Sid's son John Wilson at 402-990-1379. All are welcome! When June 1, 2016 rolls around, we hope to unveil Sid's own beer label. We envision a brew named "Sid's Second Century." He is in excellent health in body, mind and spirit.

If you care to send a birthday card you can mail it to:
Alexander (Sid) Wilson
Room 1513
600 Brookstone Meadows
Elkhorn, NE 68022



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Please Welcome Our New Church Members!



Kate McKillip and Brandon McAnally joined the church on Sunday, April 6. Pictured with them is Rowan.

Interested in joining the church?

Please attend our class UU & You. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, July 5. See page 7 for details. Or contact our minister, Rev. Frank Rivas, at minister@firstuomaha.org.



Mark Loscutt joined on Sunday, May 3.



Lita Magisana joined on Sunday, May 3.

Minister

Frank Rivas

minister@firstuomaha.org**Director of Religious****Education**

Jan Wilson

dre@firstuomaha.org**Church Administrator**

Catharine Dixon

admin@firstuomaha.org**Organist**

Pat Will

Choir Director

Bob McMeen

Custodian

Bobby Medrano

Early Service Pianist

Stan Harper

Choir Accompanists

Reuline Nightingale

Keith Hart

Minister Emeritus

Ronald Knapp

Nominating Committee

Mary Bort, Kim Callaghan,

Molly Dewell, Joe Schaaf,

Nadine Keith, Dave Olson.

Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month and are open to all members.

THE FLAME

Deadlines are the 15th of each month. Word limit: 200. Send your submissions to

admin@firstuomaha.org.Editor/Designer: Cat DixonProofers: Cyndi Nather,

Lana Hammel, Scott Kemper

Flame Mailing Team:

Debbie Hunsberger,

Shelton Hendricks, Howard

Bolton, Kim Callaghan,

Evelyn Whitehill

Meet Our Leaders

Board Members

Jack Round (President), Jackie Anderegg (President-Elect),

Sheri Conner (Secretary), Cy Leise, Kabin Thomas,

Dean Christensen, Jack Heidel, Linda Parker

board@firstuomaha.org

Trustees of the Capital Trust

Tim Duggan (2016), Steve Hutchinson (2017), Evelyn Whitehill (2018)

Committee on Ministry

Jaime Alexander, Katrina Schmidt, Marie Sedlacek, Alan Vovolka

Ministry Team Council

Rev. Frank Rivas, Barb Herring, Amy Barlow, Jackie Anderegg

mtc@firstuomaha.org

Ministry Teams and Team Leaders

Archives - Dave Richardson

Caring - Katrina Schmidt

Chalice Guild - Kay Lynn Goldner

Community Meals - Diane Withem

Fellowship - Judith Wright, Nadine Keith & Nellie Chenoweth

Finance - Walt Jesteadt

Fundraising - Donna Neff & Kathi Oliver

Governance - Alex Nather

Hope in Action - Kim Dunovan

Hospitality Teams - Kim Callaghan

House and Grounds - Dave Rosser

Membership - Jackie Anderegg

Office - Carolyn McNamara

Omaha Together One Community - Laurie Gift

Partner Church - Janet West

Religious Education - Sheri Conner

Women's Alliance - Nellie Chenoweth

Worship Arts Team - Megan Gustafson

Young Adult Group - Maria Wallace

YRUU - Ben Wallace & Shawne Coonfare

Church Events

Book Club

Monday, June 1 at 7pm in the Merritt Lounge

See page 5 for more information.

{Private Wedding

Friday, June 5 at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary

CommUUnity Night

Friday, June 5 at 5:30pm in the Common Room

See page 5 for details.

Ministry Team Meeting

Saturday, June 6 at 2pm in the Common Room

See page 5 for details.

Spirit Circle

Sunday, June 7 at 6:30pm in the Common Room

See page 5 for details.

UU Kids' Summer Camp

June 8-12

See page 5 for details.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 9 at 7pm in the Common Room

Tolerant Atheist Discussion Group

Thursday, June 11 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 5 for more information.

Second Saturday Playdate

Saturday, June 13 at 10am in the nursery.

See page 5 for more information.

Private Wedding

Saturday, June 13 at 2:30pm in the Sanctuary

Flame Deadline

Submit your newsletter articles to admin@firsttuomaha.org by June 15 at noon.

Women's Studies Covenant Group

Thursday, June 18 at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge

See page 5 for more information.

Pride Parade

June 20, offsite

See page 6 for details.

Father's Day Brunch

Sunday, June 21 at 11:30am in the Common Room

See page 6 for details.

Exploring Humanistic

Perspectives in Literature

Tuesday, June 23 at 7pm in the Common Room

See page 6 for information.

Shakespeare on the Green

Saturday, June 27, offsite

See page 6 for information.

Private Wedding

Saturday, June 27 at 3pm in the Sanctuary

RE Council Meeting

Sunday, June 28 at 11:45am in Jan's office.

Recurring...

Lunch with or without the Minister

Thursdays at noon in the Common Room

See page 3 for details.

Women's Religious Studies Group

Meets most Thursdays at 1pm in the Merritt Lounge

See page 5 for information.

Bridge Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month after the service in the Whitney Young Room or in the corner of the Common Room.

Looking ahead...

UU & You Class

Sunday, July 5 at 11:45am in the Whitney Young Room

See page 7 for details.

Community Meals

Saturday, July 18, offsite

See page 7 for details.

YRUU Sale

Saturday, August 1

See page 7 for details.

Labor Day Family Retreat

Sept. 5-6, offsite

See page 10 for information.

Father's Day Brunch happens on
Sunday, June 21 after
the 10:30am service.
Please join us!

**This brunch is a fundraiser for
our Youth Group.**

See page 6 for all the details.

**BRING ON
Brunch!**



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