



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha *Second Thoughts*

November, 2015

**Join Us This Sunday!**

**Worship Services**

**10 a.m.**

**Developmental  
Ministry and 2U  
Friday, Nov. 20**  
(see page 3)

**Thanksgiving Dinner  
Saturday, Nov. 21**  
(see page 4)

**Leadership 101  
Seminar  
Saturday, Dec. 5**  
(see page 5)

**Daylight Savings  
Time  
ends at 2 a.m.  
Sunday morning,  
Nov. 1. Set clocks  
BACK one hour!**

- November 1 Tom Peterson & Social Justice Committee  
**#BlackLivesMatter - Beyond the Banner**  
Beyond hanging a Black Lives Matter banner on the building, what else are we called to do? Together, we'll explore what supporting #BLM means at Second Unitarian and in our wider community.
- November 8 Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**Spirit and Spirituality**  
Some people use these words easily along with "spiritual growth." Others find them puzzling - what do they mean? Of course there is no one answer. Let's take a look at what they might mean to UUs with diverse views on God.
- November 15 Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**The Wisdom of Hinduism**  
There are interesting connections between UUism and the intellectual forms of Hinduism. We'll look at the philosophy of the Hindu religion and how some of its adherents got connected with the Unitarian Universalism Association resulting in many Unitarian churches in India.
- November 22 Rev. Frieda Gillespie & Molly Kliment-Jenkins  
**Thanksgiving**  
Celebrate Thanksgiving with us at this multigenerational service. The theme is Native American stories. Arrive at 9 a.m. to practice with the **ImpromptUU Players** for their debut at 10 a.m. Let your thespian heart take wing, no talent or memorization required!
- November 29 **To Be Announced**



# In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



You probably don't realize it, but you've entered into the "Neutral Zone" in your transition time. Church transitions expert William Bridges describes transitions as going through three phases:

**1. Ending** – "Letting go of the old ways and the old identity people had. It is the time when we need to help people deal with their losses. Before you begin something new, you have to end what used to be." You've had some losses: Scott McNeill left after 4 years of ministry with you; you've reverted to one service after having had two; you've ended the old 'First Hour' experience for now; You've had me here as your Interim Minister. There are other things which I'm sure you can identify that have ended.

**2. The Neutral Zone** – "Going through an in-between time when the old is gone but when the new isn't fully operational. It's when the critical psychological realignments and repatterning take place." It's clear that these are not discrete steps but phases that blend together, overlapping and recycling. Many new things have happened in the last year and a half, some that are ongoing, and some unique experiences that influence your perspectives on the future of the church. Just to name a few in no particular order:

- The **Town Hall meetings** that the Board has held have given more of you a voice in the direction of the church.
- The **Identity Workshop** where many of you reflected on what is really important to you in identifying 2U.
- **Social Justice's common read and identity statement**
- The purchase and installation of a **new projection system** in the sanctuary.
- A number of **adult RE classes** have been held and more planned by a new subcommittee.
- Twice the LGBTQ Welcoming Committee has sponsored a **National Coming Out Day service and panel discussion**. The **Open Arms transgender youth support group** is ongoing.
- A "**Black Lives Matter**" banner was hung on the church and work is in progress to do more to support the ending of violence towards black people.
- Molly Kliment-Jenkins pulled together an **awesome OWL Facilitator training at 2U** that reached across cities and states to train people to facilitate OWL classes for young children.
- **Leadership 101 training** occurred last fall. More is planned for December by your own leaders.
- The decision to contract with a **Developmental Minister and establishing goals together**.
- **OTOC listening circle** happened here.
- **Circle Suppers** resumed
- **Retirees' Group** has had many great programs.
- The beginning of **Hospitality Teams** is being coordinated by Kathy Bell.
- An **Inclusive Worship Task Force** is trying to include all interested and affected parties in decisions about worship logistics.

I'm sure you can add to this list.

**3. The last phase** according to Bridges is **The Beginning**, which occurs "when people develop the new identity, experience the new energy, and discover the new sense of purpose that make the change begin to work. Starts involve new situations. Beginnings involve new understandings, new values, new attitudes, and –most of all–new identities." You can see from the list above that the beginnings are beginning.

You are doing great work—keep it up!

In faith,

*Rev. Frieda*



# Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees



## A Thanksgiving Celebration

These are heady times for Second Unitarian Church!

We are engaged in the application process for a developmental minister who will start in August 2016. We are currently in a transition process and have benefited greatly from the talents of our current interim minister, Frieda Gillespie. For now she will help continue our transition work, and help us examine who we are and what we value about being Unitarian Universalists. At the end of this church year, she will be 'called' to assist another congregation with their transitions and will move on to help the next congregation in need.

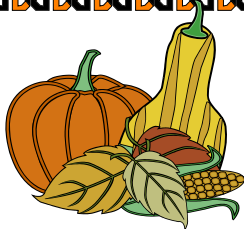
Our new developmental minister will help us grow our programs, our connections, our faith, and our congregation. The goals we set to achieve that growth are ours, but he or she will have the skills to help us take that 'next step' -- the one off the diving board into uncertainty that, like the child learning to swim, will eliminate the fear and turn us into confident UUs.

This month, we will be taking a few more steps toward our new developmental minister. Nominations and Leadership Development is helping the Board of Trustees select a Ministerial Search Team which will help prepare our application. Dori Davenport Thexton, our consultant from the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be visiting us to review our application for the developmental minister. **On Friday night, November 20, at 7:30 p.m.** she will give a short presentation for all 2U members on Developmental Ministry and what it means for Second Unitarian. She will be meeting with the Board and the Search Team on **Saturday, November 21, and attending our Thanksgiving dinner at 6 that night.** Please plan on attending both evening events as we want a great turnout to share our excitement.

We at Second Unitarian have much to be thankful for: the volunteers who keep the church looking nice, and who make Sunday services and Sunday School run so smoothly, those who help work with the Youth Group who are often unseen, and all the committees and leadership who keep the ship moving forward and on course. We are especially thankful for our staff, Donna, Gary, and Molly, for their dedicated work and for Frieda Gillespie who is walking a ways with us on our journey of growth and learning.

Blessings on us all.

*Craig*



## THANKSGIVING DINNER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 6 P.M.

It has been a long-standing tradition here at Second Unitarian to share a Thanksgiving meal the weekend before Thanksgiving Day. **This year our Thanksgiving dinner will be on Saturday, November 21, at 6 p.m.**

*Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert that can serve 10-12 people. Fellowship will provide turkey and beverages.*

*Donation is \$5 per adult or \$12 per family.  
This is a wonderful feast that you won't want to miss!  
If you can help with setup, please come at 5.*

Please contact Judy Eller or Betty Segell if you have questions.





# Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

## September Income and Expenses

For the second month in a row income was not high enough to cover monthly expenses so we had to dip into the excess built up in July.

	September 2015	Year To Date
Income	\$16,944.22	\$60,622.87 (28% of budget)
Expense	17,565.19	55,699.99 (26% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$620.97	+\$4,922.88

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$15,270.50); New Pledges from Current Members (\$190.00); Fundraising (\$482.50); Other Income (\$55.14); and Offering (\$945.83).

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at [treasurer@2uomaha.org](mailto:treasurer@2uomaha.org).

## PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

As stated in church policies: *Respect for the privacy of members, friends, and visitors is a primary consideration. When newsletter submissions contain personal information (phone number, street address, email address, etc.), it is the author's responsibility to get the subject's permission to publish this information.* Since many of our communications are transmitted electronically and information therein may more easily be re-transmitted, it's essential that any personal information be approved for inclusion.

In general, it's preferable to omit personal information, but in those cases where it's necessary (such as a location for an offsite meeting), those who submit articles should ask for permission to publish the personal information. An alternative is "Please call or email the church office for contact information." Contact the Office Administrator for more information.

**Regarding published photographs:** If you do not want your photo published (including in the newsletter or on the website), please inform the Office Administrator in writing. Thanks!



## Share the Plate for November: Together

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in November will go to **Together**.

Together (formerly Together, Inc) is in its 40th year. It is a local homelessness prevention organization, providing emergency resources and navigation to working families in extreme poverty to rebuild housing stability. Clients are working families, single parents, and others who struggle to put food on the table.

Together services include food, counseling for social services, help with rent payments, bus tickets to work, and computer access. They also make referrals for specialized help.

Visit [togetheromaha.org](http://togetheromaha.org).

To nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, [visit the church website](#) or contact the Social Justice Committee.



# Second Unitarian Leadership 101 Seminar

By Tom Peterson, Nominations & Leadership Development

## Attend Our Leadership 101 Seminar – Saturday, December 5



*“Spending time with the congregation leaders discussing leadership really helped me build confidence and knowledge in getting involved”*

*“Extremely relevant and useful”*

*“Not only for the church but for personal growth”*

*“Very helpful and useful to our congregation and life relationships”*

*“Good information. Fun”*

### Why attend a leadership seminar at Second Unitarian Church?

- You are an established leader in the congregation or at your worksite and want to improve your skills for leading groups.
- You are just embarking on your leadership journey and don't feel confident of your leadership skills.
- You are uncertain of your leadership skills and fear that you may be asked, at some distant time in the future, to serve on the Board, the Stewardship Committee, or to chair some other committee within the congregation.
- You are interested in finding ways to be involved in your church.

**Being comfortable in a leadership position is a skill anyone can learn: your comfort level includes knowing how Second Unitarian does its work and gaining confidence in your own leadership skills.**

**Leadership 101 Seminar** will be held **Saturday, December 5, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at Second Unitarian Church. Continental breakfast and lunch are complimentary.\*\* Childcare is available; please give the name(s) and age(s) of your child(ren) when you register. To participate in the seminar, send your name(s) to [leadership@2uomaha.org](mailto:leadership@2uomaha.org). **Reserve your space by November 10; the number of participants is limited.**

**Leadership 101** will be led by a team from our local Unitarian Universalist community who have developed the curriculum from experience in the church, training by Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, Midwest Leadership School, and ideas from other leadership trainings. The day includes connecting with other UU members, free food, energy recharge breaks, child care, and an exciting, interactive curriculum that has been tested with many leaders.

**We are so excited to be able to offer this Leadership Seminar at Second Unitarian Church.**

Through Leadership 101 you can:

- Build connections with other leaders in the congregation
- Develop transferable leadership skills
- Build confidence for leadership
- Identify resources available to increase your leadership capacity
- Become familiar with our congregation's systems, governance structures and procedures

**Remember to reserve by November 10!** For questions, contact Tom Peterson at [leadership@2uomaha.org](mailto:leadership@2uomaha.org).

*\*\* A free-will offering will be accepted for meals although contributions are voluntary.*





## Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



The holidays are soon upon us and so will be the hurried rush and tumble. Before we know it, 2016 will be the year we write on documents and January will be crunching, frozen under our feet.

We are going to be offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) for first and second graders as well as fifth and sixth graders. If you are interested in having your child(ren) participate, please attend the parent/guardian meeting on **Sunday, December 6, from 11:30-1:00 (lunch & childcare provided)**. If you cannot attend, please contact me to schedule a meeting with one of the facilitators. Please note: your child cannot participate in OWL without you meeting with a facilitator (at the meeting or independently) and signing a permission slip (both parents needed if custody is split). Open to children outside of our congregation.

On another note, are you interested in getting trained in other levels of OWL? We are looking for some folks who would like to travel to get trained as facilitators in the following levels: Adult OWL and 7-9/10-12 grade OWL. [Let me know](#) the training level you are interested in, and I will find available trainings. If we have enough folks interested, we may even offer the class here during the summer!

As I write this, *Articulating Your Faith* just wrapped up and our *UU History Class* will be starting soon! *Articulating Your Faith* had seven folks attend and they came up with elevator speeches. Have you thought what you would say in a short elevator trip to explain to someone what a Unitarian Universalist is or what you believe? We will be offering this class again in the future so you'll have your chance!

We are offering a *UU Heritage Class* October 27 (Covenant), November 3 (Heresy), and November 10 (Reason), each at 7 p.m. Russ Alberts is leading the class based on the "Faith Like a River" *Tapestry of Faith* series. We will explore important events, people, and ideas in our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Each class is independent, so attend the ones that appeal to you or fit your schedule.

I talked with someone who has a background in the Lakota/Lakota language. If you were that someone, please [contact me](#) - we'd love some expansion of an upcoming Service Learning Project!

Molly

### Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent/Guardian Meeting

OWL (Our Whole Lives) goes beyond sex ed into self ed. [Here's more information about OWL.](#)

**We will be offering this class for grades 1 & 2 and 5 & 6 in January.**

In order to attend the class, a parent or guardian must attend a meeting or set up a meeting with one of the facilitators to learn about the curriculum and sign off on the class. If custody is split, we prefer both parents sign off.

A parent meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 6, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Second Unitarian**. Delicious homemade soups (vegan included) will be provided for lunch. You are welcome to bring breads/rolls, salads or desserts! Childcare will be provided.

Questions? Contact Molly Kliment-Jenkins at [dre@2uomaha.org](mailto:dre@2uomaha.org).





## Service Learning Projects

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education

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### November Service Learning Project: Adopt-a-Family

November's Service Learning Project will be through Heartland Family Service's Adopt a Family holiday program.

As we know, all people do not have these same privileges or the means to celebrate the season with their families. Second Unitarian members and affiliates can provide the gifts, cash, or gift cards to help make the season a little brighter for these needy families.

In the church foyer we'll have our Giving Tree, where you may take one or more gift tags and purchase the wished-for items. Donations of cash and gift cards are also welcome and can be dropped in the box in this same area.

**Please bring your gift donations with the gift tag attached to church by Sunday, November 29, and leave them under the Giving Tree.** On the 29th, downstairs at church, we will be wrapping gifts as our Service Learning Project for our Adopt-a-Family. If you have any extra wrapping paper or gift bags you wish to donate, please place those under the Giving Tree along with your gifts.

More information coming soon about the family we will be adopting. THANK YOU for participating!

### Service Learning Project Coordinator Wanted

This is a volunteer position for someone with an interest in creating opportunities for the entire congregation to come together on a project supporting our values and providing all ages with a chance to learn. Some projects happen annually and others are open to new projects. You work independently with the Director of Religious Education and Religious Growth and Learning Committee to schedule, coordinate, and promote Service Learning Projects. Contact [Molly Kliment-Jenkins](#) or Jaime Short to learn more.

## November Teen Movie

By Anita Meyer

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### Making Us Thankful for Our Emotions and Feelings



**Sunday, November 15, at 4:30 p.m.** at Second Unitarian, the teens will view and discuss *Inside Out*.

This animated feature is about a young girl, Riley, who is uprooted from her Midwestern life to move to busy and chaotic San Francisco. Her emotions, Anger, Sadness, Disgust, Fear, and (her most important emotion) Joy, start to disagree on how to deal with this dramatic change.

Bob Fischbach will lead a discussion after we view the movie. Please join us for snacks, drinks, and pizza (freewill offering taken for pizza).



## Meditation Group

By Kevin Dunlop

The Meditation Group meets on the **third Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m.** downstairs at church.

At our meetings, we have both a meditation-related discussion and an actual meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary, and we love "drop-in" visitors or anyone curious about meditation.

Meditation is a wonderful way to neutralize the stress of the frantic world we live in, and it's a perfect antidote for the stress of the upcoming holidays.

Upcoming meetings will be **Thursday, November 19, and Thursday, December 17.**

## Women's Alliance

By Kathi Oliver

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend the Women's Alliance gathering at First Unitarian, 3114 Harney, on **Monday, November 9, with socializing and beverages at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7.**



The November program will be presented by a member of PFLAG (Parents, Families, Friends, and Allies united with LGBTQ people to move equality forward).

We ask for \$15 which goes to the cost of dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, the Partner Church Scholarship, and various activities at First Unitarian. If

this will be your first time attending a WA get-together, please be our guest.

Dinner will be Beef and Vegetable Stroganoff. It is extremely important to remember if you RSVP and cannot make it, that you still pay for the dinner you reserved. When you RSVP, please indicate if you would like a beef or veggie meal. RSVP by Thursday, November 5, to [wa@firstuomaha.org](mailto:wa@firstuomaha.org) or phone either church office for contact information.

Find us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/2uomaha](https://www.facebook.com/2uomaha)

**Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, November 1. Remember to set your clocks BACK one hour!**







## Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Please join Retirees' Group for a presentation about Fort Atkinson, Nebraska on **Tuesday, November 10, from 1 to 2 p.m.**

Fort Atkinson was the first U.S. military post west of the Missouri River, established in 1820 on recommendation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Located near Fort Calhoun, the fort was important to the early fur trade, river traffic and Indian relations. John Slader, presenter, is the Superintendent of Fort Atkinson and has worked at the park for more than 40 years. The presentation will include a video of the history of Fort Atkinson and information about the park today.

Anyone with an interest in this topic is welcome to attend! Second Unitarian Retirees meet monthly for socializing, fun, personal growth, and learning.

## Blackstone Book Club

By Gwen Eurich

The Blackstone Book Club invites you to join us on the **fourth Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** to discuss books selected by members.

During our next discussion on **Tuesday, November 24**, we will share our thoughts about *Kindred Spirits* by veterinarian Allen Schoen. We encourage you to join us in this discussion and in future discussions

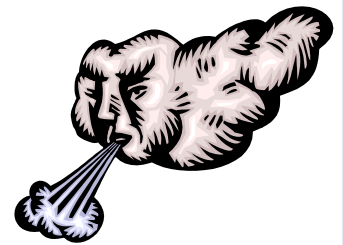
In the months to come, we will be reading *Big Rock Candy Mountain* by Wallace Stegner, *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert, and *God Help the Child* by Toni Morrison.

If you have any questions, contact Gwen Eurich.

### Weather-Related Cancellations

If weather or road conditions cause services or a major church event to be cancelled, we will notify you by:

1. Placing a message on the church phone (402-334-0537),
2. Sending a message to the weekly email list,
3. Sending a message on Facebook, and
4. Placing a message on the church website ([www.2Uomaha.org](http://www.2Uomaha.org)).



In case of a service cancellation, we will also contact local media with our information.

If you arrive at church and experience patches of ice on the walks and parking lot, deicer and sand are located in the foyer under the coat rack. Feel free to use them or alert a member of Building & Grounds to treat the ice. A shovel and broom are also available for snow.



## Building and Grounds

By Clyde Anderson and Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

### Church Cleanup – Thanks for your Help!

We were greeted with cool but beautiful weather for our Fall Cleanup Day October 17. Eight volunteers got a lot accomplished!

In addition to pruning trees, raking leaves, and cutting back the Russian sage, the Yard Team made repairs to the roof gutter, installed a hole in the pavement for the Visitor Parking sign, and winterized the irrigation system and rain barrel.

Inside the church, volunteers replaced burned-out light bulbs and a ballast in one of the office ceiling lights, cleaned the furnace filters, and worked on cabling for the new sanctuary audio-visual system.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped October 17: Kathy & Rick Bell, Melissa Konecky, Carla/Bill Kuhn, David Johnson, Janet Nichols, Roger Nicolaisen, and Clyde Anderson. We also want to thank the volunteers who helped with painting the church on September 12: Tom Rundquist, David Johnson, Roger Nicolaisen, Larry Kurtz, Bob Fischbach, Jay Haskins, and Rick & Kathy Bell.

As fall progresses, we'll have one or two informal Saturday morning outings to finish pruning the trees and rake leaves. Please watch for email announcements.

### CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

*Adopted May 23, 2010*

To strengthen the bond of peace within and beyond the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha: We pledge

- to create a religious community where we freely explore our values and honor our diversity as a source of communal strength.
- to build healthy relationships by respecting our differences and assuming good intentions.
- to listen appreciatively and endeavor to speak directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict.
- to do our best to forgive if we hurt one another, to make amends and to reconnect in a spirit of gratitude and generosity.
- to abide by this covenant in celebration of the common purpose that unites us.

Faithfully done, our work carries forward the ministry of this church to create loving community and supports our mission to grow as a beacon of hope—sharing a vision of a world community that embraces diversity, justice, and respectful stewardship within the interdependent web of existence.

Find us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/2uomaha](https://www.facebook.com/2uomaha)



# Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Chair, Membership

## Pathways to Membership Class on November 7

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Second Unitarian Church? We invite all who are interested in membership to participate in our next “Pathways to Membership” class on **Saturday, November 7, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.**

After a delicious breakfast, you will learn about Unitarian Universalism and this church, be given the opportunity to share a few words about your religious journeys with each other, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and expectations of church membership.

To reserve a seat, please contact Kathy Bell at [membership@2uomaha.org](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org) and also indicate if you will need childcare.

## Hospitality Teams Starting This Month

From November through February, Hospitality Teams with names like Flames or Chalice Bearers will try out a new way of welcoming members and guests on Sunday mornings.

**Team Activities:** Anything and everything you can think of to help members and guests feel welcomed. Give people a hearty welcome as you hand out the Order of Service. Help newcomers get oriented. Take new families downstairs to help them find the right classrooms. Prepare coffee and treats. Chat with newcomers during coffee hour. Clean up after coffee.

**Team Details:** We will start with four teams and build up to nine teams by March. Eight persons per team. A team serves one Sunday every other month (six times per year). Wow! That is 72 people all working to make Second Unitarian the most welcoming church in Omaha!

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Adults in Worship
9/27	65
10/4	55
10/11	80
10/18	60

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha  
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## Staff

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**Donna Zebolsky, *Music Director***

[music@2Uomaha.org](mailto:music@2Uomaha.org)

**Pam Curtiss-Smith, *Nursery Supervisor***

**Second Thoughts Staff:** Rev. Frieda Gillespie,  
 Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell,  
 Kathie Haskins, Gary Emenitove

**Second Unitarian Church**

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***MISSION STATEMENT  
SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OMAHA***

*“Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate, and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world.”*

*Adopted May 20, 2012*