



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

January, 2016

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.

**Building Your
Own Theology —
Part 2
Starts Wednesday,
January 13**
(see page 6)

**Sing for
Your Supper
Saturday,
January 30**
(see page 5)

**Join a
Hospitality Team!**
(see page 9)

Happy 2016 !

- January 3 Michael Lynne
Finding Your True Self; Living Your Fullest Life
Eckhart Tolle's *The Power of Now* and *A New Earth* and Tara Brach's *Radical Acceptance* offer timeless insights toward rediscovering who we really are and living more authentic lives. An introduction to the most important teachings of these two spiritual guides.
- January 10 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Prayer
Prayer means different things to different people. Let's explore the many ways people pray and kinds of prayers. What might prayers be for non-theists and theists?
- January 17 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Just Mercy
The Unitarian Universalist Association's new Common Read is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson has been an attorney for death row prisoners for over 30 years. His insights and experiences are important to understanding our justice system and how it is failing people of color.
- January 24 Rev. Frieda Gillespie
Next Generation Leaders
All churches want to know how to attract and keep young members. Let's think about what we need to know about Gen Xers and Millennials, and how they lead.
- January 31 Rev. Marshall Johnson
What Did "He" Say?
Exploring the art of public conversations.



In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



I came across a *TED talk* on YouTube that I'd heard before in my training as an Interim Minister, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie a young Nigerian novelist. It is called, "The Danger of a Single Story." Adichie relates the story of growing up in a middle-class family in Nigeria and having only English (British) stories to read. Her view of writing was formed at the time by what she read in those books. When, as a child, she began to write stories herself, she wrote about characters who were white, who lived where there was snow, who talked about the weather because it changed all the time and the sun wasn't always out. In Nigeria, the weather is constantly sunny and warm, there is never snow, and no one talks about the weather. It didn't occur to Adichie that there could be stories about girls with "chocolate" skin and kinky hair. It wasn't until she was an adult that she wrote about her own life. We form "single stories" about all kinds of things. Adichie's roommate in college had never met an African girl and her single story about Africans was one of poverty, tribal culture, and language. It never occurred to her that Nigeria could have English as their official language. It is a fascinating concept, and whenever I'm surprised by anyone, and I've heard a single story about them, usually in the form of a stereotype, I think we are all subject to our limited imagination about any person or place we aren't familiar with.

Before coming to Omaha, I thought of the Midwest as a vast flat and empty plain. My association with Omaha in particular was the TV show *Wild Kingdom* sponsored by Mutual of Omaha with Marlin Perkins. I loved those shows growing up, but of course none of them took place in Omaha. When I got here, I was surprised to find Trader Joe's and Whole Foods, in fact all of the same stores as everywhere else (happily and sadly). I'm thrilled now when I come across something uniquely Nebraskan, like the chocolates that Walgreen's sells or the two-foot square Rice Crispy treat that Baker's was selling for a while. The Sandhill Cranes were spectacular and the Zoo is a real treat. I saw an opera last February and *Man of La Mancha* when it was here, along with a growing list of other delightful experiences. I fear that colleagues may be as ignorant as I was while considering this as a possible home. I'll do my best to tell it like it is when, and if, they call me to ask about the church. Lately what has caught people's eyes, because of a NYTimes story, is the Tri-Faith center that is under construction. They're very excited about it and want to know why there isn't going to be a UU church there. All in good time....

Wishing you all a fabulous start to the new year and many wise and dynamic candidates for your next minister.

Rev. Frieda



Share the Plate for January: North Omaha Area Health (NOAH) Clinic

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in January will go to the **North Omaha Area Health (NOAH) Clinic**.

The NOAH Clinic provides care to patients regardless of ability to pay, including helping find sources to fund their care. Services include healthy living and cooking information, health screening, exercise, massage therapy, counseling, and support groups. As part of Social Justice outreach, 2U members recently helped as NOAH started a pilot program regarding a holistic approach to health and weight loss. The NOAH Clinic also donated items for 2U's Silent Auction. Visit <http://www.noahclinic.org/>

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



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees



January is the two-headed month; we take time to look back at the year just past, and we peer ahead to see what's in store for the next year.

This is a time of assessment and planning. Over this past year, our congregation took stock of who we are and what is important to us.

Rev. Frieda led our identity workshop and many in the congregation participated in small group discussions as we prepared for developmental ministry. A search team for our developmental minister was named and has finished up work on our application to the Unitarian Universalist Association. There have been changes in our sanctuary and we now have a sound roof over our heads. There have been many more programs for members to become involved in and many opportunities to build connections.

In January, the search team will be planning our recruitment and analysis of our new minister, and there will be more programming to plan and execute. The Finance Coordinating Council and Stewardship Committee will be planning our annual pledge drive and as always, there is Sing for Your Supper (see the article in this newsletter). Our community is strong and because there is a lot of energy, we will grow. With growth, we may not feel the strength of our connections but we can do something about that.

Connections are built through conversation and “active listening,” not thinking about your response, but listening closely to the other's story and then reflecting before responding. January is a great time to engage in conversation, whether over a bagel at the Bagel Bin or over a cup of coffee at Crane's (or your locale of choice).

Better yet, call a Second Unitarian friend and get together to share your stories about why your community is so important to you. Have a “Re-Member-ence” party at your house by inviting some former members who may not feel they need our community anymore, and tell them about all the excitement and changes going on at Second Unitarian.

The Board for Second Unitarian Church is now meeting on a regular basis with the Board from First Unitarian Church to promote those connections and work together to promote the values and principles of Unitarian Universalism in Omaha. We will be working with Social Justice to put those initiatives into action. This effort will need all of us and it will require lots of conversation.

If we tend to these connections through conversation, our story becomes that tapestry of many colored threads that we so admire. Reach out, share some warmth in this cold month and build those connections at Second Unitarian! *Wassail!*

Craig

Nominations and Leadership Development

By Tom Peterson, Chair

Leadership 101.2 on December 5 was a big success! Thanks to the great efforts of Pam Curtiss-Smith, Janet Nichols, Carol Johnson, Phil Phillips, Fiona Matthews, plus Rev. Frieda Gillespie, Craig Piquette, Kathy Bell, Ben Wallace, Neva Cozine, and Jim Fields, we had a full day overflowing with ideas, discussion, and fun. Eleven participants from Second Unitarian and one from First Unitarian joined to learn about personality styles, how to manage change, and techniques to make meetings more effective. We learned and discussed ways to attract and keep new members, and to communicate more effectively.

Nominations are being sought for two positions on the Board of Trustees, and one position each on Endowment and on Nominations and Leadership. If you have an interest in serving, or have a recommendation, please speak with Tom Peterson, Janet Nichols, or Pam Curtiss-Smith.



Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

November Income and Expenses

In November, our expenses were again a little higher than income, but our year-to-date numbers still look good.

	November 2015	Year To Date
Income	\$14,923.33	\$93,592.79 (43% of budget)
Expense	15,699.35	87,115.97 (40% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$776.02	+\$6,476.82

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$12,605.00); New Pledges from Current Members (\$190.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$100.00); Fundraising (\$441.68); Other Income (\$340.39); Offering (\$1,196.91); and Rent (\$50.00).

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

Faith – Funding – Action: Stewardship 2016

By Cheri Cody, Stewardship Committee

Faith-Funding-Action is the theme for our 2016 stewardship campaign. This will be an exciting year of change for Second Unitarian Church, as we transition from Interim Ministry to Developmental Ministry. Guided by the values of Unitarian Universalism, we are called to be welcoming, inspiring, inclusive, and caring. In many ways, we will be putting these values into action by changing how we view what's effective. An effective action will be to embrace the guidance of a developmental minister who will help us implement the dreams that we've put on flip charts and on cereal boxes in recent years. To put our faith into action, we will need your support — financial and other. We know you'll be there showing your commitment and dedication.

Watch for details on our kickoff dinner – **Saturday, March 5, 6:00 p.m.**

Developmental Ministry Search

By Sue Aschinger, Search Team

The Developmental Ministry Search Team (Sue Aschinger, Lead Contact; Lorraine Duggin; Pete Miller; Jaime Short; Rachel Yamamoto; and Jack Frost) is happy to tell you that we have submitted our application for a Developmental Minister to the Unitarian Universalist Association. We hope you are as excited as we are for the opportunity to be a part of this dynamic and emergent program. As part of our application, the Board worked hard to articulate our goals for the coming years. We are confident that, with the support of a developmental minister, those goals will lead to our overall goal of creating a vibrant church that attracts and retains members. The application provides an overview of our church, our people, our community; and how we want to provide a church for our members and the community at large that exemplifies our UU values. From our application, a candidate will learn about our history, where we are now, and our future goals, and will recognize our excitement for finding someone committed to helping us create our future together.

The next step is for the UUA to match us with candidates whose skills match our goals and who are interested in talking with us. The Search Team will review those candidates' applications. We will then begin a thorough interview and review process for each candidate during the first few months of 2016.



Sing for Your Supper!

Saturday, January 30, 6 p.m.

It's time to chase away those winter blues!

All talented Second Unitarian Church members, affiliates, and visitors!
Polish your musical talents (singing, dancing, instrumental), poetry writing, recitation, and dramatic or humorous readings, or whatever you do.

**This is your opportunity to perform at Second Unitarian's annual
SING FOR YOUR SUPPER, this year on Saturday, January 30.**

An audience is a must, so please come even if you are not performing -
we need everyone!

Fellowship will furnish bread and beverages - please bring soup or dessert to share.

The meal will start at 6:00 p.m. with entertainment to follow.

Childcare will be available from 7 to 9 p.m.

Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Everyone is invited to join the 2U Retirees' Group on Tuesday, January 12, at 1:00 p.m., for a presentation by 2U member Lolly Thomas on "What You Should Know About Eldercare Services."

Lolly worked for two eldercare companies, in both the corporate offices and franchise offices. She'll share her experiences and answer your questions about this growing service.

Second Unitarian Retirees meet monthly for socializing, fun, personal growth, and learning.

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).



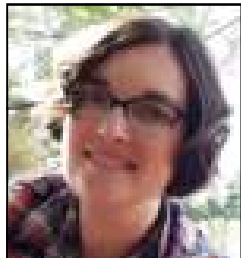
In case of a service cancellation, we will also contact local media with our information.

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.



Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



I am in desperate need for folks to help out in the classroom. At this time of the year, I start to ask for volunteers in the Sunday classes: this year is especially challenging. We have folks move or leave and new members join.

I try to make this an easy way to be involved in church life and contribute to the next generation of Unitarian Universalists. I provide everything you will need in the class. You don't have to have any answers (after all, we're all UUs, so none of us do have all the answers)!

Please consider making a new year's resolution to step out and try a new type of church involvement: try leading a Sunday class. You can make it a once a month commitment or take one of our available World Religion classes the youth are doing and expand your understanding of another faith.

Building Your Own Theology (BYOT) Part Two is starting up! As before, we will offer both afternoon and evening sessions. **We will meet starting January 13** for two Wednesdays a month through April, a total of eight sessions, with the option of two more in May. The text is \$14 for BYOT 2. If you missed the first BYOT and wish to review before this session, books from the first session are also \$14. Join us in fun and open exploration of both personal spiritual beliefs and our ever evolving UU Heritage!

Shawnee Mission UU Church in Lenexa, KS, is hosting a 7th-9th/10th-12th grade OWL training February 26--28. For more information and to download the registration form, visit <http://wathen9.wix.com/owltraining>

And, speaking of OWL, our elementary OWL classes start on January 10 with a mandatory parent-child orientation meeting at 11:30 a.m. If you have a child in 1-2 grade or 5-6 grade and are interested, [contact me!](#) The classes are going to be a HOOOT!

With hope for a wonderful 2016 for all of us,

Molly

January Teen Movie

By Anita Meyer

Sunday, January 24 (NOTE DATE!) at 4:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary, our teens will view and discuss the movie *Doubt*.

This movie stars Meryl Streep and the late, great Philip Seymour Hoffman. In this film, without a shred of evidence, a Catholic school principal questions a priest's ambiguous relationship with a troubled young student.

Snacks and drinks are provided and a freewill offering taken for pizza. Join us!



Have you ever participated in YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)?

Then **please join us** as we go over the future of YRUU. Everyone (current and past youth, advisors and parents) is welcome to attend this exciting workshop designed to create a sustainable future for YRUU. It's **Wednesday, January 6, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney**. A potluck will feature Ben's famous enchiladas and Chicago style deep dish pizza. (Hey, we know what motivates you!)



Building and Grounds

By Clyde Anderson and Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

Our Spiritual Home Has A New Roof!



2U member Jennifer Kelly knew that Building and Grounds was looking at installing a gutter on the east side of the roof because water dripping causes a serious walking hazard in winter. She asked a friend, Alicia Frost, with American Dream Home Improvement, to see if they could install a gutter at an affordable

cost. Alicia inspected our roof and found substantial hail damage. We turned in a claim with our insurer who confirmed hail damage — the roof needed to be replaced. The Board agreed to proceed with the project. We were blessed with a week of mild weather, so the roof was replaced December 8-10. Rick Bell got up on the roof with the workers and verified that there was leakage to the plywood sub-roof and eaves, requiring replacement of the rotten wood before application of the new shingles.

How many Unitarians does it take to decide on a shingle color? We decided on an attractive dark gray which complements the exterior colors of our Church. Then Mother Nature brought heavy rains shortly after the roof replacement, with NO leaks! Thanks to everyone who helped with this project. And the new gutter is still on B&G's wish list.

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) continues to bring local congregations together to improve life in Omaha. Recent developments:

- **The Neighborhood Revitalization team** led efforts to convince the City Council to adopt an ordinance that requires owners to register vacant and deteriorating property. The registry encourages repair and/or sale of abandoned structures.
- **Immigration Reform** co-hosted a candlelight vigil in support of allowing Syrian refugees to come to Nebraska.
- **The Environmental Sustainability team** challenged OPPD's rate restructuring that will greatly increase energy costs for "low use" customers.
- **The Medicaid Reform team** continues to collaborate with organizations and state legislators to provide health insurance coverage to the working poor who earn too much for traditional Medicaid benefits but not enough to qualify for subsidies from the Affordable Care Act.

Be watching for details of the February Issues Forum where you can learn about 2016 priorities.

OTOC is Urban Abbey coffee shop's community partner for January. Come to the Abbey at 10th and Jackson and learn about:

- *Wednesday, January 6, 7 p.m.,* Death Penalty in Nebraska
- *Wednesday, January 13, 7 p.m.,* OPPD Rates and a Smart Energy Future
- *Thursday, January 14, 7 p.m.,* Housing Code Enforcement
- *Wednesday, January 20, 7 p.m.,* Refugees in Omaha
- *Thursday, January 28, 7 p.m.,* Environmental Bills in the Nebraska Legislature

During January, OTOC receives a portion of counter sales and packaged coffees. Second Unitarian is a long-time member of OTOC's congregation-based community organizing.

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.



Do you play an instrument or sing?

Would you enjoy performing a selection during church services?

We are looking for musicians from the congregation to participate in the music of our services. You don't have to be a professional.

If you're interested, please contact Donna Zebolsky at music@2uomaha.org or on Sunday to discuss your music and arrange a date for you to play.

Find us on Facebook:
facebook.com/2uomaha

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!

Make Welcoming Others Your Sunday Morning Spiritual Practice

Our pilot hospitality teams
The Flames, Pleasant Porters, Chalice Bearers, and @ UU'r Service
have begun transforming how our congregation welcomes people

Five New Hospitality Teams Are Forming in March

Enjoy team camaraderie - Serve just six Sundays per year
Receive training to
Greet — Welcome Newcomers — Usher — Host Fellowship Hour

Join a Team Today!

Contact Kathy Bell at membership@2uomaha.org

Meditation Group

By Kevin Dunlop

The Meditation Group meets on the **third Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m.** downstairs at church. Upcoming meetings are **Thursday, January 21 and Thursday, February 18.**

Here is a great idea for a New Years resolution: peace of mind and loving kindness towards others. These two things are at the heart of what we do in the Meditation Group. 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.

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Adults in Worship
11/29	48
12/6	66
12/13	63
12/20	68

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha
3012 South 119th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
402-334-0537
www.2Uomaha.org
Find us on Facebook:
facebook.com/2uomaha

Staff

Rev. Frieda Gillespie, *Interim Minister*

Office 402-334-0537 ext. 111 Cell 508-207-7566

RevFrieda@2Uomaha.org

Molly Kliment-Jenkins, *Director of Religious Education*

402-334-0537 ext. 112

dre@2Uomaha.org

Gary Emenitove, *Office Administrator*

402-334-0537 ext. 114

info@2Uomaha.org

Donna Zebolsky, *Music Director*

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