



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.

June Attendance

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Adults in Worship
6/5	60
6/12	57
6/19	74
6/26	36

UPCOMING SERVICES

- July 3rd Todd Daganaar
Meditation & the Brain
- July 10th Anna Peters
I'm a Christian, But...
- July 17th Michael Lynne
Free Will & Moral Responsibility
- July 24th Lorraine Duggin
Holy Relics - Can UUs Relate?
Lorraine will explore the topic of relics in this sermon, noting that most of the world's religions venerate relics. What meaning can UUs find in this ancient sacred practice?
- July 31st Jackie Anderegg
One Talk at a Time
Rape in the United States

The Kids are taking the Summer off!

This summer, we are electing to skip separate Sunday education classes for our children and youth. Children aged 6 and under are welcome to hang out in the garden level with the nursery children if they are more comfortable doing so, but all children are welcome in the sanctuary during the regular service.

We hope you have a fabulous summer and will see you when we start up again in September!

Questions? Contact Molly!

WELCOME, REVEREND CYNDI SIMPSON!



The Developmental Ministry Search Team of Second Unitarian Church is pleased and excited to welcome our new Developmental Minister, the Reverend Cynthia Simpson, who would like to be called "Cyndi." Cyndi will leave her current residence in Barre, Vermont in July and begin her ministry with us in mid-August. Cyndi comes to us highly recommended through our contacts in the UUA Transitions office and our UUA Regional consultant. We are excited to have her join us in our journey following a unanimous decision by the Search Committee and the Board, which was based on extensive interviews and research.



**Cyndi and colleagues
Hampton Roads UU
Revival 2013**

The Search Team was impressed by Cyndi's energy and eloquence in our interviews over Skype. Further conversations with her references only confirmed that our enthusiasm was well-supported. Cyndi grew up unchurched but with Quaker and Methodist forebears, some of them ministers. She felt a call toward ministry much earlier in her life that she continued to ponder for many years before making a decision. She deliberately chose a Christian seminary because she lacked the experience of Christianity she knew she needed to have as a minister in the US. As a UU, she calls herself an "evangelist," knowing that is not a common word used to describe most UUs but believing that clear and focused outreach will spread the word to more people about this religion that has meant so much to so many of our lives.



Personally, she has adopted aspects of Paganism, Humanism, Buddhism, and a love for Jesus into her thoughtfully considered belief system, and we feel that her extensive life experience will serve her well at 2U. With the existing interfaith clergy group in Barre, Cyndi facilitated a community book group that read several books on race and racial justice. Since January 2015, she has stood outside weekly (sometimes in below-zero New England winter weather) holding a vigil for Black Lives Matter, facilitating a much-needed dialogue in the “second whitest state in the Union.”



Many of her stellar references have spoken of these “gutsy” stands she has taken on social justice issues, her ability to work well with people from all walks of life in varying states of belief or unbelief, to discuss and deal with conflict, always listening and acting with genuine courtesy and kindness “even when others were not acting that way.” They also spoke of her steadfast ability to work through difficult or uncomfortable issues and to meet people where they are: “she’s not afraid to do the hard stuff.” In her personal life, she is single (previously married), enjoys bicycling, and was happy to discover through an online topographical map that Omaha “is not flat at all!”

Cyndi spent two years as an interim minister at First Church in Barre-Universalist. Before that, she served two years as a Developmental Minister for the Unitarian Church of Norfolk, VA. She has served as a Chaplain, Chaplain Intern, and Student Chaplain at various institutions, including Lebanon Valley College, PA, the Federal Correctional System in Pennsylvania, UU Church of Lancaster, PA, and at the WellSpan Hospital, York, PA. She served as a Ministerial Intern at First Unitarian, Denver, CO, where for 5 months she took over the ministry when her supervisor went on sabbatical. She is a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary (2008) and was ordained at First Church in Barre-Universalist on May 3, 2015, after receiving preliminary UU fellowship on September 25, 2010. She was received into Final Fellowship in the UUA in February, 2016.



Covenant of Right Relations Development Barre, VT 2014



Hampton Roads Pride Festival - 2012

Cyndi was born in 1955 in Erie, PA, but has lived in many areas of the United States. Besides her Master's of Divinity, she holds two other master's degrees, one in anthropology (University of Georgia) and one in public health (University of Massachusetts). Her background is wide and varied as a UU and also as a professional. She says of a cross-cultural seminar she attended as a requirement for all Master of Divinity students, "Through my experiences and learning in India, I have come to a deeper understanding of religious pluralism and what it requires." She has worked professionally in human services for 30 years prior to becoming a UU minister and has a lifelong commitment to social justice activism and civic participation.

She states: "Worship, social justice – especially anti-oppression work – spiritual and theological development, UU identity and theology, outreach, and membership/stewardship sustenance are my passions, supported by my entrepreneurial nature. Assisting a congregation through an intentional church-size transition also is a very satisfying process for me."

She is excited about moving to Omaha and helping us to achieve our goals through developmental ministry.



Loo helping Cyndi pack for their move to Omaha!

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Letter to the Congregants of the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha



Dear Friends at Second Unitarian,

I hope you are all doing wonderfully well as the summer season unfolds!

From the first time I read your carefully-prepared Developmental Ministry application, I was hooked! I planned immediately to ask Keith Kron, Director of the UUA's Transition Office, to send my name to you for consideration. Yours is the best developmental ministry application I have ever seen.

I was impressed especially by your understanding of and insight into yourselves as a congregation and the depth of your stated goals. Where another congregation might have written a goal as "To Grow," you wrote "Be Welcoming and Engaging to Newcomers and Members." There you expressed a clear understanding of something that is critical for a congregation to grow and thrive as a place of meaning for its members – a more foundational goal rather than a surface one. Each of the goals and their justifications showed evidence of a lot of thought and care and digging deep for what matters the most. And you are the only congregation I have ever seen to include photos with your application! That was so great!

Meeting with the Search Committee via Skype, exploring your website and other materials, speaking with Reverend Frieda, Reverend Scott and Reverend Dori Thexton at the Mid-America Region – all confirmed my initial positive impressions.

I hope to come to you as an explorer and a catalyst, taking time first to learn about you individually and collectively and to develop mutual trust. I hope to ask more questions than give answers and always to reaffirm our shared responsibility for the well-being of the congregation. As is true of all ministers, I come with a unique set of life experiences, skills, gifts and flaws. I won't have all the answers, nor would I hope to. All our answers to any questions or issues ultimately must come from deep listening to one another, a willingness to be open and transparent, and to risk the vulnerability of sharing what matters most about Unitarian Universalism and your own dreams for your religious community.

I am so excited and happy to be coming to the wonderful city of Omaha to serve you as developmental minister! Whatever we can dream together can come true if it is founded in the power of our UU faith and its Principles. Together, we can be a great force for good in Omaha.

I look forward to meeting each of you and all of you very soon!

Namasté and many blessings,

Cyndi

The Reverend Cyndi Simpson

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



We are all models and teachers in this congregation, but I want to take a moment to acknowledge those who have contributed extra time and effort to that job.

This year, our children and youth made some copper pendants for our teachers as a thank you for all they do. All of us are like the cut copper blanks that these pendants started out as, with the unique shape and character we are each born with. But teachers and other influential individuals are like the resist the children used to create these designs. The resist protects the metal. The acid that etched the metal still leaves a mark but it also reveals the beauty and strength provided by that person's guidance.

This is a list of some of the individuals who have contributed their time and talent to our Lifespan Education program. If you are on the list but were not at the service on Sunday, I have your pendant in my office - stop on by to pick it up!

Russ Alberts - Facilitating Adult RE
Ed Bok - OWL, Adult Education Committee
Todd Daganarr - Sunday School
Bob Fischbach - Movie Night
Michelle Godfrey - OWL, Sunday School
Dave Jenkins - Sunday School
Jeff Jenkins - OWL
Fiona Matthews - OWL, Adult Education Committee
Monica Meier - Sunday School
Pete Miller - Sunday School
Pam Miller-Jenkins - Sunday School, RGL Committee
Janet Nichols - Sunday School
Keri Norris - Sunday School
Jonnathan Pinzon - Sunday School
Meg Quintana - Sunday School
Tom Rundquist - YRUU
Jaime Short - Sunday School, YRUU, RGL Committee
Justin Short - YRUU
Joe White - OWL, YRUU
Rachel Yamamoto - Sunday School

Molly

Thank You!

Thanks Craig & Gay!

When I think of volunteers I think of time and values. In our lives, one thing we cannot create, accumulate, acquire, buy or even borrow is time. We have a limited amount of time for sleep, work, family and our own interests. Therefore, one's time is priceless.

When an individual commits to volunteer on a long-standing basis, they have chosen to give up their own time to support a vision that benefits others. This brings me to values. Some of the strongest values, **service** and **sacrifice** are shown when one places the needs of another above their own. A volunteer chooses to give up their personal time and energy and expend it to help others.

Please take the time to thank our Board of Trustees members who are stepping down. Craig Piquette and Gay Abraham deserve thanks for the three year commitment of their time and energy as they worked to keep Second Unitarian going strong and moving toward the future.

And while you are saying thank you, don't forget about the returning and new members of the Board of Trustees.

We appreciate your dedication:

Pat Caffrey, Chair

Carol Johnson, Vice Chair

Joe White, Secretary

Anita Meyer

Greg Minter

Don Mundy

The Standing Rules have been updated!

Why is this important? The Standing Rules of the Board of Trustees serve as governance for the Board and Committees that describe the processes by which the groups will function and interact. This is very important for a church like ours where the members are involved in the day to day running, instead of an Elder/Priest/Bishop/Rabbi running the show!

Thank you to everyone who helped with this arduous task! The new Standing Rules can be found on the [Member Info](#) page under Governing Documents.

The Board would like to offer a large thank you to everyone involved in the new Standing Rules process for all their hard work!



A TRIBUTE TO HONOR ORLANDO

Have you seen our Beautiful Prayer flags?

These flags were created as a tribute to the 49 who lost their lives, the 53 who were injured, and the countless lives changed forever.



These flags are a symbol to everyone who sees them that Second Unitarian supports the LGBTQ community.

We invite you to make a flag. Write a prayer, a plea for peace, a blessing, a quote. Give power to a victim by using their name. Give hope to others with a picture or a song verse.

With this symbol we affirm our support for LGBTQ individuals to be fully themselves, as well as our commitment to work for equal rights for all.



Stop by the church during office hours (M - Th 8am - 2pm) or Sunday before or after services to make a flag.

Contact [Molly](#) or [Jaime](#) for additional times, questions, or to help out.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

by Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

Income and Expenses Operating Fund

May Income totaled \$17,515.62. Breakdown:

Pledges Budgeted from Stewardship Campaign: \$14,525.00

New Pledges from Current Members: \$150.00

New Pledges from New Members: \$40.00

Fundraising: \$1,487.00 (See YTD Fundraising Summary chart below.)

Other Income: \$143.81 (See YTD Other Income Summary chart below.)

Offering: \$994.81

Rent: \$175.00

Income from Stewardship Pledges YTD was \$167,834.50, 92% of the \$183,174 budgeted.

Income from New Pledges from Current Members YTD was \$1,670.00, 334% of the \$500 budgeted.

New Pledges from New Members YTD was \$1,190.00, 34% of the \$3,500 budgeted.

Gifts YTD was \$80.00, 16% of the \$500 budgeted.

Fundraising YTD was \$2,868.34, 27% of the \$10,712 budgeted.

Other Income YTD was \$2,980.21, 505% of the \$590 budgeted.

Offering YTD was \$10,296.39, 79% of the \$13,000 budgeted.

Rent YTD was \$275.00, 137% of the \$200 budgeted.

May Expenses totaled \$15,318.83.

Net Income Less Expenses for the month of May was \$+2,196.79 and YTD was \$+5,433.63.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

Checking, Money Market, and Investment Accounts Balances total \$88,606.88 which includes Restricted Funds of \$72,089.36 and Unrestricted Funds of \$16,517.52.

Pass Through income is broken down on the chart below.

The lifetime unrealized \$29,430.47 gain from Vanguard Group endowment funds resulted in a market-to-market value of \$83,568.14.

Notes Regarding Income and Expense Statement

For the eleventh month of our fiscal year, Annual Budget Percentages for income should be at least 92%. Five income lines met budgeted amounts: Pledges from Stewardship Campaign; New Pledges from Current Members; Dividend Income; Other Income; Rent.

YTD Budget Percentage for expenses should not be higher than 100%. Several expense lines are over budgeted amounts: DRE Salary and Payroll Taxes – Staff as explained under the From the Treasurer heading; DRE Professional Expenses; Musicians; Copier Expense; Fellowship Committee; Library Committee, RGL Council.

Share the Plate Update

Whispering Roots received \$497.41 as one-half of offering for May.

YTD Fundraising Summary for Budget Line 4411-000

	7/15	8/15	9/15	10/15	11/15	12/15	1/16	2/16	3/16	4/16	5/16	6/16	Total*
Fund 140 Auction					50.00								50.00
Fund 141 Yard/Book Sale			482.50										482.50
Fund 142 Store/Fair Trade				55.00	352.00	408.00	(773.40)		200.85		137.00		379.45
Fund 146 Other									526.00		1,350.00		1,876.00
Amazon.com													
	15.43	13.31			39.68	11.97		0.00					80.39
Total	15.43	13.31	482.50	55.00	441.68	419.97	(773.40)		726.85	0.00	1,487.00		2,868.34

*Income/Expense Explanation:

January Store/Fair Trade implementation of refined recordkeeping to show net profit; inventory purchases and gross income have been moved to Pass Thru chart.

May e-bingo \$350.00 and Omaha Gives Challenge contribution \$1,000.00

YTD Other Income Summary for Budget Line 4411-100

	7/15	8/15	9/15	10/15	11/15	12/15	1/16	2/16	3/16	4/16	5/16	6/16	Total*
Fund 201 Thanksgiving Meal					338.00								338.00
Transfer from Money Market	207.00	2.62	2.39	2.55	2.39	2.23	2.79	2.23	2.24	2.63	2.31		231.38
Transfer from Unused DRE HRA				1,462.83									1,462.83
Fund 202 Garden Plot									80.00	30.00	30.00		140.00
Fund 299 Misc. Free Will						113.00	20.00			109.50	111.50		354.00
Church Mutual Ref 2014-15 Workers Comp Premium						324.00							324.00
Web Design/Test								120.00					120.00
From Pass Thrus			52.75						(52.75)				0
Adj- Correction from Previous Year						10.00							10.00
Total	207.00	2.62	55.14	1,465.38	340.39	449.23	22.79	122.23	29.49	142.13	143.81		2,980.21

*Income/Expense Explanation:

March transferred \$12.00 and \$40.75 back to Pass Thru Account to zero out expenses incurred by Adult RE and OWL Training.

May Misc. Freewill Offering purpose unknown



Retirees' Group

Retirees Group will meet all summer! Please join us Tuesday July 12th, 1:00 pm for a presentation by Donna Walter of the Institute for Holocaust Education. The IHE provides educational resources and provides support to Holocaust survivors in our community. The goal of IHE is to ensure that the tragedy and history of the Holocaust are remembered and that, as a result, our community is inspired to create a more just and equitable society.

Donna Walter, our very distinguished presenter, is the recipient of the 2012 National Catholic Educational Association Distinguished Teacher Award and is an alumna of the Belfer National Conference of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Bearing Witness, and Bearing Witness Advanced with the Anti-Defamation League. She has attended numerous Holocaust workshops and has traveled to several Holocaust sites.

Retirees Group meets monthly for socialization, learning and fun. You are welcome to join us whether you are retired, partially retired or not retired. You are invited to bring a friend.



Retirees' Group at the June 2016 tour of The Holland Center.

Looking for RE Volunteers

I'm trying out VolunteerSpot to organize our upcoming Sunday summer session lessons and projects in the garden level. It's easy. Pick the Sundays you are interested in and able to help. If you have to switch because of a conflict, you can do it on VolunteerSpot. If you are going to be absent due to illness or sudden change of plans on Saturday, please let me know so I can be sure we have enough folks present on Sunday. I will send out the description of the work plan. The program will remind you in advance of your upcoming commitment. We will have some changes to the schedule once we figure out which Sundays are multigenerational so please be patient as there will be some changes as we progress.

Here's how it works in three easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our sign-up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/dbCtpy>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group has changed its meeting date to the third Wednesday of the month. We will meet at 8:00 PM in the sanctuary following the choir rehearsal. As always, 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. The next meeting will be on August 17. **There will be no meeting in July.**

*Awaken the spirit of Pagans,
Nature & Earth Centered
Unitarian Universalists as we
return to roots of our
inspiration.*



Convocation 2016

Awakening Our Tribe

at First Church
Unitarian Universalist
in Historic Salem, MA
August 26-28, 2016

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is holding "Awakening Our Tribe" the 2016 convocation at First UU in historic Salem, MA. Check out cuups.org for more info.

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.

Tornado season is upon us again!

What if a severe storm with a possible tornado approaches our area during Sunday church service? Do you know our tornado evacuation plan? The safest area of the building is in the basement. Go down either north or south stairway. Proceed to the south classrooms area (under the foyer and First Hour areas) and stay away from the east-facing windows because the strong winds could blow debris through them. The windows on the west side are less dangerous because they are protected by window wells. The rest rooms, storeroom beyond the women's rest room and kitchen are also safe areas. Please stay clear of the RE Worship Area and Office which have large east-facing windows. Tornado shelter signs are posted as a reminder.

PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Church policy states: *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!