



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.

**What is that pile of rocks in
the side yard?**



UPCOMING SERVICES

August 7th Molly Kliment - Jenkins
Prayer

August 14th Ophir Palmon
To Be Announced

August 21st Carla/Bill Kuhn
To Be Announced

August 28th Reverend Cyndi Simpson
To Be Announced



 Come for the Sermon, stay to say “Hello!”

 August 28th, after Rev Cyndi’s first service,

 there will be a welcome reception.

 More details to come.

Turn to page 12.

The Kids are taking the Summer off!

This summer, we are electing to skip separate Sunday education classes for our children and youth. Children age 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!

BOARD REPORT

As my grandson says, Ready, Set, GO!! We are ready for the next stage of our journey together as Second Unitarian Church! With Rev. Frieda's guidance and insight, we completed two years of Interim Ministry, focusing on our identity, who we are and who we want to become. Now comes a new beginning into Developmental Ministry! Rev. Cyndi Simpson will be in our pulpit for the first time on Sunday, Aug. 28th and we hope we will all be together for her welcome into our faith community. There will be a special fellowship time after the Sunday Service to get to know Cyndi. Please join us!!

As a board and congregation we are excited to have Don Mundy and Joe White joining the board this year. We are grateful to Gay Robinson-Abraham and Craig Piquette for their service on the board and will look forward to seeing how they choose to share their talents in other ways! I am honored to be the new chairperson of the Board and am looking forward to working with Carol Johnson, Vice Chair, Anita Meyer, Greg Minter, Joe White, Secretary and Don Mundy on the board. We are here for you and if you want to send us your comments, suggestions or feedback, please reach out to us or simply send them to board@2uomaha.org.

It is with gratitude that I thank all of you for all that you do and are! We have a new website that is awesome! Building and Grounds, which includes many of you working together, continues to spruce up our environment! Social Justice is offering many opportunities to put your faith into action! Music and Worship leads us in Sunday Services! Our staff contributions are many! We ended the fiscal 2015-2016 year with a surplus of \$5,834.79 and the Board approved transferring \$5,734.79 into our Reserve Fund! I am sure I have missed some but know that you are appreciated!

In a recent conversation with a friend, we were discussing the challenging world we live in and how important and needed we, as Unitarian Universalists, are to dispel fear and instead, focus on hope that leads to action; Hope and action that we live out our faith every day in any number of ways; that as a community, we can and will make a difference and accept the call to make our mission to be authentic, compassionate and transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in the world a reality. Take a moment to reflect on what you will do today to make that happen and then do it!! I accept the challenge and hope you will as well.

- Pat Caffrey

Pat Caffrey



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Summer is still holding on, but the kids are headed back to school, and our Sunday Church School will soon be in session. We are hoping that everyone enjoyed their summer but are ready to head back to the books and are ready to learn!

Classes will resume the first Sunday of September, the fourth, at 10 a.m. Registration will be available then. Registration helps us know your child better - allergies or medical conditions we need to be aware of, as well as any photo restrictions you might have.

Adults, please join us once or twice a month in the garden level as we explore learning about our world and our faith from a youthful perspective! We ask that all parents contribute time to this program and certainly welcome anyone who enjoys interacting with the young in body and mind.

We will have teacher training on Saturday, September 3rd at 9 a.m. in the lower level for intermediate and youth (grades 2 through 12) and at 10 a.m. for the Montessori Spirit Play classroom. From 10 am-10:30 there will overlapping information for both groups of people, therefore, training will take approximately an hour and a half. Of course, as part of our safe congregations policy, all teachers will undergo a background check. For additional information about our policy, please visit 2uomaha.org and click on "governing documents" and scroll down to the "Safe Congregations" document.

Our RGL Committee is looking for a couple new members. We meet once a month to discuss what is going on in the classrooms and to share ideas. Contact Molly Kliment-Jenkins if you are interested in joining us.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped us with some classroom maintenance in the lower level and getting the minister's office ready for our new developmental minister. We painted walls and furniture, moved some classrooms around and, in general, got things ready for the upcoming year. Rick Bell, Clyde Anderson and David Johnson repaired a crack in the Minister's Office as well as did maintenance on our aging lighting. Melissa Konecky, Carol Johnson, Tera Kirk, Pam Curtis-Smith, Rick Bell and Roger Nicolaisen helped out with paint. Tom Cantrell sanded furniture and cleaned and reinstalled the duct vents and light switch and electrical covers. Jaime and Sabrina Short tackled the Office Administrator's space. Tera Kirk and Cameron Short replaced the cabinet hardware in the minister's office. Cameron Short sanded, scraped and "kilzed" the tree mural as well as sanded and painted the nursery furniture. **Painting cinderblock is never fun - those of you who helped with that get an extra pat on the back!**

-Molly Kliment-Jenkins
DRE

Molly

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

by Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

In June our income was higher than our expenses. We finished fiscal year 2015-16 with a surplus of \$5,834.79. This surplus is due to unused Office Administrator Insurance Benefits and Professional Expenses; and the new Office Administrator is not yet eligible for Retirement benefits. Additional surplus came from unused pay for bookkeeping. Careful stewardship from our committees and volunteer hours also contributed to the surplus. Committees spent only 67% of their budget, a total savings of \$4,692.

The Board approved transferring \$5,734.79 of 2015-16 surplus to Reserves. Numbers here are before the transfer so you can see actual income and expenses.

	June 2016	Year End (before transfer to Reserve)
Income	\$18,188.46	\$207,782.97 (96% of budget)
Expense	\$17,787.30	\$201,948.18 (93% of budget)
Net Over/Short	+\$401.16	+\$5,834.79

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$11,871.00); New Pledges from Current Members (\$140.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$100.00); Fundraising (\$5,390.82); Offering (\$684.00). June Fundraising got a big boost from receipt of May Omaha Gives donations.

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$4,869.21); Minister's Compensation (\$8,330.79); Administrative Expenses (\$429.58); General Expenses (\$3,589.55); and Committee Expenses (\$568.17).

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at 402-334-0678, or email: treasurer@2uomaha.org



We Ended 2015-2016 With A Surplus!

By Finance Coordinating Council

Our fiscal year ended June 30th, and the year-end financials look very good! Pledge income was 98% of \$183,174, the pledged amount for 2015-2016. Thank you to all of you who paid your pledges, and special thanks to those members who exceeded their pledges! That helped compensate for members who couldn't fulfill their pledges because they moved away or suffered financial hardship. We ended the year with a \$5,835 surplus. Most of the surplus will be moved to the Reserve Fund for use as directed by the Board.



Letters were mailed to all households pledging for 2016-2017 thanking you for your pledges and stating the pledge amounts and schedules of payment. Please keep this letter with your financial records. If any information is in error, please notify Vicki Pratt, Treasurer, treasurer@u2omaha.org. If you selected to make your pledge payments via automatic deductions from your checking account, please check your bank statement to be sure the correct amount was deducted in July. Please notify Vicki if there are any problems.

Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Membership Committee Chair

New Church Directory Coming Soon!

Members and affiliates, please let our office administrator know if you have moved or have changed your phone or email contact information. We will publish an undated church directory this fall and want to make sure your contact information is correct. Also, if it has been a while since your picture was taken, the Membership Committee will be available to take pictures during Sunday fellowship hour throughout August.

Interested in Membership?

We will soon schedule our fall Pathways to Membership Classes for those interested in becoming a member of Second Unitarian. If you are interested, please let the person at the Welcome Desk know or contact us at membership@2uomaha.org. More information coming soon.

Come to a Solidarity Service

OTOC and Omaha's Interministerial Alliance invite everyone to a Solidarity Service of song, reflection, and prayer from Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities. Gather to reflect on our common humanity, appreciate our different faith traditions and customs, and recommit to working together toward creating a peace-filled community for all families. This service is at Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Ave on Thursday, August 4, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Officiants include a speaker from the Omaha Islamic Center, Rabbi Steven Abraham of Beth El Synagogue, Rev. Jan Peterson of Augustana Lutheran Church, Rev. Tony Sanders of Koinonia House of Worship and IMA, and Rev. Marshall Johnson of St. Luke United Methodist.

Omaha Together One Community
...together with...
The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance



Curious about Montessori in a UU setting?

The UU Fellowship of Topeka and the UU Congregation of Lawrence are joining forces to bring you a Spirit Play Training workshop this August 27th!

UUCL started our one room schoolhouse Spirit Play class last fall and it has been immensely successful. Topeka is officially starting their Spirit Play class this fall but has already experienced calmer class environment & engaged conversation during the wondering session. Second Unitarian started it two years ago and it's one of the quietest, most reflective classes in the garden level! [Click here for more info!](#)

Calling all 7th through 12th Graders! Teen Movie Night Starts August 21st!!



After taking a break this summer the teens will meet again August 21st, 4:30 p.m. at Second Unitarian to view and discuss Zootopia and how it relates to our Second UU Principle: "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations". Well, in this case we will make it "animal relations". Zootopia In a city inhabited by anthropomorphic animals who have abandoned traditional predator/prey roles in favor of peaceful coexistence. Uptight rabbit police officer Judy Hopps is forced to work with charismatic fox con artist to crack a major case involving the mysterious disappearance of some

carnivore citizens. But when a few of the missing critters reappear, having reverted back to eating prey, it exposes existing anti-carnivore prejudice among the city's herbivores that threatens to damage the fabric of their diverse metropolis.

We will also be selecting movies for the year ahead. Please join us for snacks, pizza (free-will offering taken) and a great discussion led by Bob Fischbach.

Retirees' Group Getting Around Green in the Big O

Clyde Anderson will be giving his presentation "Getting Around Green in the Big O" at Second Unitarian Church on Tuesday, August 9th at 1:00 p.m. His presentation will focus on how we can escape car dependency in a car-dependent Omaha. Many "empty nesters" are considering downsizing, and Clyde will show you how to find a new home with a high walkability score, good transit access, and safe biking options. Perhaps you already live in a car-independent neighborhood and don't know it! Come and find out how you can Get Around Green in the Big O! The Retirees group meets monthly for learning, socialization and fun. You don't have to be retired to attend—come join us!

Book Sale

The middle of summer is when we start thinking about the annual fall book sale. Do you have any books you have been hanging on to and want to share? Do you want to make room for some exciting books you might find at the book sale in September? If so, bring your donations to the church! Our sale will be held September 25th and October 2nd, with a rain date of October 9th.

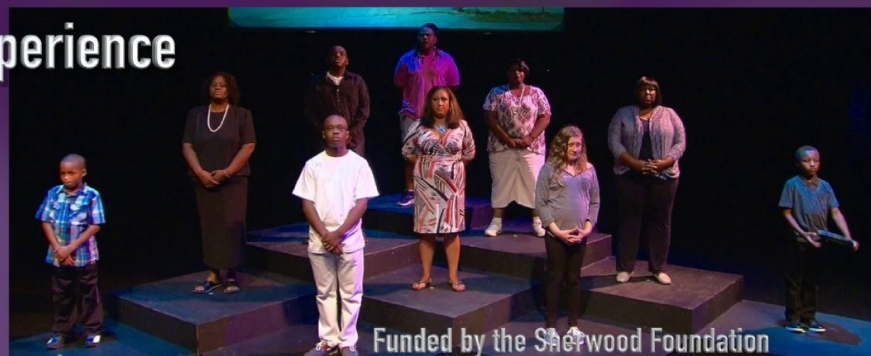
Social Justice Movie Night

I Dream of an Omaha Where.... To put a human face on Omahans who have or still are participating in gangs and the people who have been tragically affected by gang violence, the Social Justice Committee will be showing a video featuring the stories of current and former gang members and victims of gang violence. Join us on Sunday evening August 28th for potluck meal at 5:30 (if you choose) and video “I Dream of an Omaha Where..” at 6:30. Bob Fischbach will lead a discussion after the video. Child care will be available upon request to childcare@2Uomaha.org. Omaha has a long-standing problem with gangs and youth-on-youth violence and is one of the most dangerous cities to live in for African American youth. In order to directly address the devastating effects of gang violence in our community, a unique collaboration formed between the Rose Theater and Daniel Beaty, a nationally known performer who helps those affected by adversity tell their own stories of trauma, and through artistic expression, start their own personal healing process.

I Dream of an Omaha Where . . .



a transformative experience



In April 2015, Daniel facilitated workshops of over 80 current and former gang members and victims of gang violence to tell their stories. He first created a play script based on the narratives that came out of the workshops. The play “I Dream of an Omaha Where...” is thought to be the first time that current and former gang members and victims of gang violence were brought together to share their experiences in this way. As part of the project, a videographer was hired to chronicle the workshops, rehearsals and the play. The full-length film shown on August 28th is that video.

The “I Dream” project was transformative experience for those sharing their stories and is changing the dialogue in Omaha about the nature and impact of gang violence.

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month. We meet at 8:00 PM in the sanctuary following the choir rehearsal. 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. **Upcoming meetings will be on August 17 and September 21.**

Brush Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon

Brush Up Nebraska Paint-A-Thon is a community based volunteer program that paints homes of qualified low-income elderly and low-income permanently disabled homeowners. It is in the spirit of an old fashioned "Barn Raising" that people come together to help others and brighten lives and homes within our community.

First Unitarian is partnering with Countryside Community Church and their assigned house is 4339 N. 38th St. owned by a woman in her late 70's. It is 1½ stories tall so we will need step ladders for much of the work, but also people to paint the lower portions including the foundation, and someone to deliver the donuts and juice. Children 16 and under will need a signed permission slip, and a designated adult on-site to keep an eye on them.

We need more volunteers! If you are unavailable on August 20th, there will be a "prep" day the Friday or Saturday before.

Please contact First Unitarian's Alan Vovolka (contact First Unitarian - 402-345-3039) to sign up or to lend ladders, brushes, scrapers, or a wet/dry shop vac.

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!

What is that pile of rocks in the side yard?

If you said it was a cairn then pat yourself on the back. If you said it was a *peace cairn* then you really know your rocks... or your church history.

Vicki Pratt had this to report: *"I went to a dance workshop in Berea, KY sometime between September 11 and the US invasion of Iraq. One the churches there had constructed a peace cairn. Some of their members were at the dance workshop and spoke about their cairn. They were giving away small rock "seeds" and asking other churches to also construct one on their grounds across the US and Canada."*

Vicki had the "seed" for a while and it was talked about it at Social Justice meetings. But as we all know - there are great ideas and then there is putting those ideas into action! Just when Vicki had resigned herself to carrying that "seed" in her handbag forever (ok not really, but it sounds good, right?!), a young boy scout stepped forward!

Chris Alberts decided to construct the cairn for his Eagle Scout project. Meetings were held and votes took place and the peace cairn was approved! Chris managed fund raising, rock selection, planning, and recruiting volunteers to get the rocks, load them, get them to our church, and construct the cairn.



May 22, 2004 - Rev. Josh Snyder and the new Board of Trustees pose with the Eagle Scout and Garden Club volunteers next to the new peace cairn. Sara and Vicki are seated on one of the new benches that will be placed next to the cairn.