



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

What's going on at 2U this month?

May 31st - Hard deadline for announcements for e-news and Order of Services that you wish to be published from June 4th through June 21st

June 3rd - Deadline for check reimbursement requests from the 2106-2017 budget

June 3rd - 2U & Ames UU youth to Henry Doorly Zoo

June 4th - Flower Communion - Remember to bring flowers

June 4th - Annual Meeting

June 4th - 2U & Ames UU youth picnic

June 10th - Writing for Spiritual Growth

June 11th - Social Justice Movie Night

June 12th - New Board Orientation

June 13th - Retirees' Group

June 17th - Open Arms Trans Social Group

June 21st - Meditation Group

June 27th - Blackstone book club

UPCOMING SERVICES

Our Six UU Sources

June 4: Flower Communion

June 11: Soto Zen Buddhism

June 18: Put Away All Wrangling

June 25: How Music Nurtures Our Spirit

See page 5 for more details.

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10:30 a.m.

**Help decide the future of your church.
Your vote is needed!**

After the service on Sunday, June 4th is our Annual Congregational Meeting. At least 35% of our membership must be present to conduct business on behalf of the congregation. We will adopt a budget for the upcoming church year, elect officers to lead the congregation and decide other important matters.

important

A SUMMER OF SOURCES

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well.

As I write this, I am preparing for the White Supremacy Teach-In this coming Memorial Day Sunday. There is more to read and study than I can possibly use for one sermon. I hope that I and others can address with you the white supremacy culture of the UUA and of our nation over the next year – and what we can and should do about it. This work is critical for our survival as individuals and as a religious movement and as a nation.

No one is free until we all are free, said the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom, said Malcolm X.

It is imperative that we understand with our hearts, souls, bodies and minds the truth of these two statements – how our own peace and freedom depends on the presence of peace and freedom for others.



On June 4, we will celebrate our community in so many ways: by welcoming New Members, by expressing gratitude for our RE volunteers and by sharing our Flower Communion. This will be a service that expresses in great variety the Principles and values of our Unitarian Universalist faith and how we live them.

Then, we will move into our Summer worship program – exploring our Unitarian Universalist Six Sources – the foundation of our wisdom, inspiration, insight and growth as a religious people. The Music and Worship Committee and I are splitting our 12 summer Sundays so that you will hear each source addressed twice! What a lovely variety that will be.

On June 11, Dosho Port Roshi, one of the new co-priests at the Nebraska Zen Center, will lead a Buddhist worship service, with readings, a dharma talk, a question and answer session and a meditation practice. Thus will the Music & Worship Committee address Source #3: *Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life*.



Greetings from the Board of Trustees

The Stewardship Campaign's theme, **New Way Forward**, is so appropriate for us at Second Unitarian Church right now. *We thank all of you for making this Stewardship Campaign a successful one and for being part of this New Way Forward!*

The Omaha Gives fundraiser was a success! Through your generosity, almost \$4,000 was raised for Second Unitarian Church. *Thank you to Jaime Short, Kathy Bell, Carol Johnson and Justin Short for organizing and leading this effort and to all that made contributions!*

Church Property Improvements - As part of our Developmental Ministry Goals and Key Outcomes, the Board is convening a team to move forward on, at a minimum, replacing the parking lot and adding a restroom on the main floor, and for that group to come up with recommendations to the Board that would include work to be completed, strategies to cover the costs, communication with the congregation, etc. We are looking forward to how this initiative is connected to our key outcomes and the meaning it has for us at Second Unitarian Church.

We are excited that both Ed Bok and Barbara May will be attending MWLS in July. Part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's nationwide network of leadership schools, **MidWest Leadership School** is a week-long intensive program in leadership and group dynamics. Led by lay and ordained staff with a deep understanding of UU congregations, MWLS

- develops both youth and adults into congregational leaders
- provides leadership tools and skills
- deepens Unitarian Universalist identity

Thank you to both of them for this investment of their time in themselves and the willingness to come back and be part of our New Way Forward at Second Unitarian Church. We also thank Tom Peterson who serves on the staff at MWLS.

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!

As we end this church year, it is a time for reflection and renewal. Can you feel the changes that are happening as we are becoming a stronger, more vibrant Unitarian Universalist congregation? Can you hear the enthusiasm and excitement in the voices before a Sunday Service begins? Although we have said goodbye to members that are moving away, we welcome the new members who have joined us. We will have much to look forward to in the upcoming church year and our second year of Developmental Ministry.

Also, as we end this church year, *it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I thank the current Board members, Anita Meyer, Carol Johnson, Don Mundy, Greg Minter and Joe White* for their leadership and commitment to Second Unitarian Church.

Thank you!

Submitted by Pat Caffrey

OUR SIX UU SOURCES

June 4: *Flower Communion* - Today we will celebrate our Flower Communion, welcome our New Members and express gratitude for our Religious Education volunteers. All of these celebrations reflect our Principles and Sources and strengthen our Community. Please join us for this service of welcoming and gratitude and sharing in this beloved Unitarian Universalist congregation.

June 11: *Soto Zen Buddhism* - Our 6th Source invites us to engage with Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life. After an opening Welcoming and Offering as usual, Dosho Port Roshi of the Nebraska Zen Center will lead the congregation in a Buddhist service, including readings from sacred Buddhist texts, a dharma talk (think 'sermon'), a question & answer session, and meditation. Dosho Port and his spouse Tetsugan Zummach are the new co-teachers at the Nebraska Zen Center. This is sure to be an enlightening and informative spiritual experience!

June 18: *Put Away All Wrangling* - Our 4th Source invites us to consider Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves. Today we will hear Scriptures from the Hebrew and Christian Bibles that invite us into the spiritual growth and spiritual practice of greater love for ourselves and others.

June 25: *How Music Nurtures Our Spirit*

2U DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS & KEY OUTCOMES

IDENTITY GOAL

2U has a clear and shared idea of our identity as Unitarian Universalists in this time and place.

- The Board of Trustees and church leaders maintain their clarity of church identity.
- Our identity drives the determination and fulfillment of the purpose of the congregation.
- Our culture, organizational structure, programs, worship, and activities reflect and are grounded in our identity.
- Our church name reflects our identity as Unitarian Universalists.
- Because we act on our identity, the church is recognized in the larger community as a UU liberal religious faith community.
- Our culture of right relationship is apparent in how we are together and is central to our understanding of our identity.
- Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
 - Accessible to all
 - Inviting and welcoming
 - 7 Principles apparent in structure & function
- Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.

WELCOMING GOAL

2U is a welcoming and engaging congregation for newcomers and members.

- Newcomers and members are excited and enthusiastic about belonging to 2U.
- Newcomers and members want to join in on the 2U mission.
- Newcomers and members have connection and good relationships at 2U.
- Newcomers and members have personal and spiritual growth at 2U
- As a congregation, 2U is diverse, multicultural and multigenerational.
- Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.
- Our worship strengthens and affirms our mutual bonds of love, relationship and covenant.
- Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
 - Accessible to all
 - Inviting and welcoming
 - 7 Principles apparent in structure & function

2U DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS & KEY OUTCOMES

STRUCTURE GOAL

2U has an organizational and physical structure that is appropriate for and responsive to our vision for the future.

- Our structure reflects the identity, purpose and covenants of the church and continually moves the congregation forward in its development.
- More people will be engaged in doing manageable tasks that appeal to different kinds of people.
- Members experience various ministries as engaging, energizing and spiritually fulfilling.
- Our structure supports a more intentional, focused and coordinated presence in the wider community.
- Our culture of right relationship is apparent in how we are together and is central to our understanding of our identity.
- Our structure stimulates new ideas and the application of new ideas.
- Our structure reflects a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, and of what is essential.
- Our building and spaces reflect our understanding and practice of being UU:
 - Accessible to all
 - Inviting and welcoming
 - 7 Principles apparent in structure & function

WORSHIP GOAL

2U engages in worship that activates and transforms spirit, mind and body.

- Our worship presents diverse opportunities for inspiration, illumination, meaning and transformation.
- Our worship is a time of solace and sanctuary.
- Our worship celebrates and reflects our diversity of all kinds, while emphasizing our essential unity.
- Our worship strengthens and affirms our mutual bonds of love, relationship and covenant.
- Our worship affirms our worth and what we hold to be worthy.
- Our worship calls and equips us to partner with others to change the world.

Treasurer's Report of 2016-17 Operating Budget

by Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

In April we brought in more than we spent, thanks to payments on pledges.

	April 2017	Year to Date
Income	\$17,801.45	\$180,237.81 (84% of budget)
Expense	15,453.48	166,915.03 (77% of budget)
Net Over/Short	+\$2,347.97	+\$13,322.78

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$15,127.69); New Pledges from Current Members (\$30.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$1,094.33); Other Income (\$47.63); Offering (\$1,501.80).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$4,767.26); Minister's Compensation (\$6,485.15); Administrative Expenses (\$131.58); General Expenses (\$3,451.36); and Committee Expenses (\$618.13).

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



Attention Committee Chairs

Our fiscal year ends on June 30th. This means your 2016-17 committee budget money will expire then. To spend this year's money, approved Reimbursement Request Forms or invoices need to be to the office by June 2nd. On July 1st you can start to use money from next year's budget.

The End is Near!

The end of the fiscal year that is! The 2U fiscal year ends June 30th. This may seem like quite a while to go yet, but it will be here before we know it! Please start gathering those receipts for reimbursement and filling out the check request forms. I will be out of town from June 6th to 21st. For a quicker processing of your check please turn in your requests before June 2nd.



I'm running away!

Don't worry, it's only for two weeks! I will be gone June 5th through the 21st. Here are a few important things you need to know:



- I will not be checking my emails... in fact no one will be monitoring my emails!
- If you need something, please call and leave a message on my office voicemail. (Someone will be monitoring this.)
- The e-news and order of service will have limited announcements. If you would like something announced during the time I am gone, you will need to email me that info **before May 31st.**
- **If you would like to be a volunteer to help out while I am gone, then please [contact me](#). The duties will be very light!** You would be checking the office voice mail, checking the mail, and perhaps a few other small tasks. - Thanks!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As I write this, we are very close to being finished with our Little Free Library. If it seems like this has been going on for awhile, it has been! We've broken it into bite sized pieces and tied our principles and values to each lesson. I've also found that, when given a choice to use hand tools or power tools, our children and youth are consistently picking the less easy but more satisfying route - hand tools!

This is a big project and one our congregation can be proud of. Following the service on June 18, we will be dedicating our library! We already have many donations for books, but keep a stash handy and bring them in whenever you think of it to replenish. Chances are the greater community will also keep it pretty filled once everyone gets the hang of it, but we may need to "seed" it occasionally! You can also feel free to place old UU World magazines in there to share with those walking by. (And don't be surprised if we get materials from other churches and denominations: that's one of the fascinating things about the Little Free Library!)

This July I will be heading to Hawai'i with my family to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary (a year late, but who's counting). We went there for our 10th anniversary and are taking Kitty to the Big Island. I'm looking forward to exploring another culture with Kitty, colonialism and missionary pressures, Pele and all her glory on Mauna Kea, and experiencing the Fourth of July in a culture that has complicated feelings on being American and Hawai'ian.

I will leave you with this Hawai'ian word and concept:

Hānai is a term used in the [Hawai'ian](#) culture that refers to the informal [adoption](#) of one person by another, regardless of the age involved. It can be used as an adjective, such as "*hānai* child", or as a verb "to *hānai*" someone into the family.

As you can imagine, this can lead to challenges to those rooted in the traditional American culture where adoption is quite formal. It also makes tracing one's Hawai'ian lineage complicated. But it also means that a society can easily absorb and take care of those who have lost their family. And it begs the question, "What is family?" if not those who take you in when you need it the most.

With the light of learning -



Molly Kliment-Jenkins
DRE

Here are some pictures of our progress on the Little Free Library!



Post Election Action

Take a leading role in resistance opportunities with Resistance Summer



In the first 100 days of Trump's disastrous presidency, many across the country have blocked much of Trump and the GOP's agenda, strengthened our networks and resolve to protect ourselves and our neighbors, and caused elected officials to act with backbone they wouldn't have had without us. In the face of the greatest obstacles and setbacks, we, the people-many of us new to political action-have risen up, and we have not wavered.

[Find out more about Resistance Summer here.](#)

First Hour schedule for June

- **June 4th** - Due to the Annual Meeting, there will not be a First Hour
- **June 11th - June Share the Plate Recipient - Tai Chi for Balance.** Chris Cady-Jones, Tai Chi for Balance Program Director, talks about physical, mental, and emotional benefits of this practice. You may want to participate in a short demo.
- **June 18th - TBA**
- **June 25th - TBA**

First Hour runs from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning. Childcare is provided.

2U Youth - Join in the fun June 3rd & 4th with the Ames UU youth!

The UU youth group from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames are coming to visit the first weekend in June. Spend Saturday afternoon showing the Ames visitors around our Zoo and then say goodbye on Sunday with a farewell picnic. The Ames UU's last visited in 2015 and great fun was had between all the youth! [Contact Jaime Short for more info.](#)



GET INVOLVED

Omaha Gives Fundraiser Update

We raised \$3840! Plus a bonus \$535 from an hourly drawing from Omaha Gives! That gives us a grand total of \$4375! Thank you to everyone who gave.

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Flower Communion is June 4th



Flower Communion is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Maya Capek, Norbert's widow.

Each Celebrating the Flower Ceremony is an excellent opportunity for Unitarian Universalist congregations to express their commitment to our Sixth Principle: *We covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.*

Please remember to bring a flower to share with our 2U community.

Retirees' Group *Mele Mason*

Please join us for Retirees Group on Tuesday, June 13th at 1:00. Our speaker for June will be Mele (pronounced "mailey") Mason, owner of Mason Video. Mele followed the 2016 political campaign as a videographer in Iowa and Nebraska and will share her experiences and reflections of the campaign with us.

Mason Video covers network news, sports, medical and corporate events in addition to special projects like "I Dream of an Omaha Where...". Mason Video has worked with clients like NBC, ABC, and CBS News, CNN, ESPN, History and Discovery Channels, NASCAR, Berkshire Hathaway, Sherwood Foundation and many others.

Retirees Group meets monthly for socialization, personal enrichment and learning. All are welcome, regardless of retirement status.

June Share the Plate Tai Chi for Balance

Tai Chi for Balance is a program for Seniors offered through a partnership with Friendship Program, Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging, and CHI Health. The classes are twice a week at Senior Centers in Omaha. Suggested voluntary donation is 50 cents per class. This allows low income Seniors to participate.

tai chi
FOR BALANCE

Tai Chi for Balance teaches slow physical movements that strengthen muscles, increase lung capacity, and improve mental concentration and self confidence. Movements are modified from traditional non-impact Tai Chi to be done while seated or standing. This allows participation by Seniors of many physical ability levels.

While these classes have proven results of reducing the risk of falls in Senior by nearly 50%, funding is scarce. Funding for the 2016-17 year will run out just before the end of the fiscal year. Classes will go into hiatus until funding starts again in July. Suggested voluntary donation projected to increase to \$1 starting in July.

Preventing falls will allow Seniors to remain in their own homes. These classes received the OPPD Service to Community Safety Award at National Safety Council, Nebraska's Safety and Health Summit in 2014.

If you know of a worthy charitable organization that you would like to nominate for Share the Plate please complete the nomination form. [Here is a fillable PDF form for Share the Plate.](#) If you'd like help completing the form, contact Cheri Cody, Carol Johnson, or Pat Caffrey.



Social Justice Documentary Night “AWAKE: A Dream From Standing Rock”

by Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee



“AWAKE, A Dream From Standing Rock” is a collaboration between Indigenous filmmakers Myron Dewey and Doug Good Feather, and environmental Academy Award Nominated filmmakers James Spione and Josh Fox. This 90-minute documentary details native led resistance of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. Through the fall and winter protestors at Standing Rock endured harsh weather conditions, attack dogs, water cannons, and police in riot gear to protect water and sacred tribal land.

UUs from across the country hurried to Standing Rock in response to calls by the UUA president. North Dakota UUs continue to assist protestors still in jail and house those who are out on bail. Bold Alliance says “The more people who see the film, the more our movement will be called to take action and continue the fight for justice, equity and freedom from oppression in all forms.”

[Click here for more info on this film.](#)

When: Sunday, June 11th; optional potluck at 5:15; (Vegan and vegetarian food options appreciated. Feel free to enjoy the meal with us even if you don't bring something to share.)
documentary at 5:45 followed by discussion based on material from film's creators.

Writing for Spiritual Growth

Writing for Spiritual Growth is a great opportunity to express your creative side in a safe and nurturing environment. No special skills are required, just a desire to put pen to paper and explore.

Part of Spiritual Growth is asking questions; writing is a great way to go deeper into those questions and to share them with others. Writing can reveal things that we weren't consciously aware of, or give us perspective on difficult life situations. Not that we need to be terribly serious about it all! Playfulness and humor are sometimes the best way to get past our fears and doubts.

Please join us on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. We meet downstairs. Please see Pete Miller if you have any questions.

HEARTLAND PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Please join us for the annual Heartland Pride Parade on Saturday, June 17 and the Pride Festival on Saturday, June 24. The theme this year is Alive With Pride. Through our involvement, we affirm our support for LGBTQ individuals to be fully themselves, as well as our commitment to work for equal rights for all. We'll be joined by First Unitarian Church in both the parade and the festival. Here is the schedule of events:



Saturday, June 17

10 am – Pride Parade in Council Bluffs, beginning at the intersection of 9th Avenue and South Main Street. Come walk with us! Line-up is at 9 am.

Friday, June 23

6 pm – Youth Pride Celebration and Dance at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village. This is a great night for the youth to celebrate their diversity in a safe setting. The event is geared toward those 13-20 years of age.

Saturday, June 24

11 am – Pride Festival and Entertainment begins at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village. Visit or help staff our booth at the Festival. Set-up is from 8 to 10 am, and our booth will be open until 4:30 pm.

For more information, or to sign up to march in the parade or staff the booth at the festival, contact Tammy Hunter at tkghunter@gmail.com