



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

What's going on at 2U this month?

- November 2nd: Endowment Committee
- November 5th: Daylight Saving Time ends
- November 5th: CUUPS Business Meeting and Potluck page 9
- November 6th: Fellowship Committee
- November 7th: Worship Committee
- November 9th: Finance Committee
- November 11th: Fall Church Yard Clean - Up page 7
- November 11th: Program Council page 8
- November 11th: Writing for Spiritual Growth
- November 13th: OTOC Delegates Congress page 11
- November 13th: Dementia Caregivers Support Group
- November 13th: Women's Alliance page 8
- November 14th: Retirees' Group page 7
- November 14th: Membership Committee
- November 14th: Caring Committee
- November 15th: Meditation Group page 9
- November 18th: Open Arms Trans Social Group
- November 18th: Thanksgiving Dinner page 10
- November 19th: Social Justice Committee
- November 19th: Last day to RSVP for Leadership Development Seminar
- November 20th: Library Committee
- November 28th: Blackstone Book Club
- November 28th: Stewardship Committee

UPCOMING SERVICES

Courage

November 5th: *Our Beloved Dead*

November 12th: *A People of Abundance*

November 19th: *Thanksgiving*

November 26th: Lay-led Service

See page 14 for more details.

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

December 2nd is the Leadership Development Seminar - *U 2 Can Be a Leader*. Find out more on page 6.

FROM THE STAFF

We in RE are again lucky recipients of Rose Theatre ticket vouchers! This is thanks to the Marketing Advisory Committee and the advertising Second Unitarian does in the Rose program.

That means it's time to do a drawing for ticket vouchers to the Rose. Children and youth who attend Sunday school programming are eligible for the drawing, and we'll draw every month for the next few months. Our first drawing is for 3 ticket vouchers to "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," a holiday musical...and the winner is...

Evelyn Turner!

I'll be mailing out the tickets to Evelyn and her family. And if you see her on Sunday, congratulate her on her lucky draw!

If you missed out this time, be sure to write your name on a ticket every Sunday and drop it into the jar for the drawing. Putting your name in each Sunday that you come will increase your chances!

With the light of learning-
Molly Kliment-Jenkins
DRE



Calendar and Communications Problems?

If you are having problems with your event or meeting making it on the calendar and/or in communications please remember:

- Filling **out a calendar request form** or **sending a separate calendar request email** will help ensure that your event makes it to the calendar!
- Writing your own "blurb" will help your chances of correct communications.
 - Please submit announcements for weekly e-news and Order of Service to: info@2uomaha.org by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays.
- Let me know what dates you want your "blurb" to run.
- Please remember all submissions will be published at the discretion of the Office Administrator. (This means if you want your info published in every communication for three months in a row that may not happen.)
- If you email your calendar request with other non-calendar requests or documents, your calendar request might be missed.

Thank you so much for helping me to help you!

Jaime

Planks and Slivers

In September, the Board of Trustees held a day-long retreat. During that day, we identified our top 3 priorities for the upcoming year. Our Board’s priorities are:

1. **Engage the congregation with Developmental goals and outcomes. (As a reminder, the Developmental Goals, in one word, are: Identity, Welcoming, Structure and Worship. To see more, check out our website)**
2. **Bring more “meaning” to congregational life**
3. **Wrestle with the identity of the church. Who are we as a congregation?**

These priorities surfaced as we imagined Second Unitarian as the “congregation we wish to be.” We chose these priorities knowing that we will not finish or achieve any of them this year, but we believe they will set us on the right path.

The Board met for an additional meeting in October to review the priorities and to identify opportunities and next steps for each one of the priorities. As the year progresses, you will hear more and more about the Developmental Goals and Key Outcomes, the “meaning” of your church experiences and the identity of Second Unitarian Church.



Worship Themes for 2017-2018

October: Courage

November: Abundance

December: Hope

January: Intention

February: Identity

March: Welcome

April: Structure

May: Worship

June - August: Summer Theme TBA

OCTOBER SERVICE ATTENDANCE

Date	Number in Worship		
10/01	62	10/15	60
10/08	62	10/22	60
		10/29	45

Treasurer's Report of 2017-18 Operating Budget

Cheri Cody, Treasurer

In September, we had a deficit of \$296.22; the amount collected from offering was about 60% of that collected in previous months. We still have a significant surplus year-to-date resulting from prepaid pledges recorded in July.

	September 2017	Year to Date
Income	\$15,475.10	\$69,189.55 (31.56% of budget)
Expense	15,771.32	51,172.45 (23.34% of budget)
Net Over/Short	\$ - 296.22	\$18,017.10

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$14,528.33); Pledges for Previous Year (\$.00); Offering (\$639.00); Fundraising (\$304.25); Other Income (\$3.52).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,692.80); Minister's Compensation (\$6,585.15); Administrative Expenses (\$35.50); General Expenses (\$3,227.19); and Committee Expenses (\$230.68).

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at 402-210-9029 or email: treasurer@2uomaha.org

Watch your mailbox!

OK, even an exclamation point doesn't make watching your mailbox sound very exciting. Maybe this will: Watch your mailbox just after Thanksgiving for a letter from the Endowment Committee asking for year end gifts to the Second Unitarian Endowment Fund.

Why is this exciting? Because this is your chance both to support Second Unitarian AND to reduce your 2017 tax liability. Last year our first year end campaign raised \$1,800 for the endowment fund and we are hoping for much more this year. Support Second Unitarian! Lower your taxes! Woo - hoo, we told you this was exciting!



First Hour schedule for November

- **November 5th - *Righteous Mind Series Review*** Jim Poleshuk
- **November 12th - *Pay Day Lending Reform***. Several states already regulate interest and fees that predatory payday lenders can charge. With no regulation or penalties in Nebraska, these lenders can charge more than 460% annual interest. OTOC's Pay Day Lending Reform Action Team will discuss how pay day lending now operates, as well as pending regulatory state legislation.
- **November 19th - *Abundance*** Rev. Cyndi Simpson
- **November 26th - No First Hour**

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



Fall Back November 5th

Just a reminder that the time changes **November 5th!**

Day Light Saving time ends so move your clocks **back** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday the 4th.

Leadership Development Seminar *U 2 Can Be a Leader* Saturday, December 2nd 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year, the Nominations and Leadership Development committee is excited to offer the Leadership Development Seminar, *U 2 Can Be a Leader* an evolution of Leadership 101 offered at 2U for the last 3 years

Through the Leadership Development Seminar, *U 2 Can Be a Leader* you can:

- Build connections to other church members
- Develop transferable leadership skills and practice previously learned skills
- Build confidence for leadership and how you handle challenges

Being comfortable in a leadership position can be learned by everyone.

The Leadership Development Seminar, *U 2 Can Be a Leader* includes an exciting, interactive curriculum based on information from the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, the Midwest Leadership School, and leadership trainings from outside our UU faith. It is conducted by an experienced team who have volunteered or are employed as leaders in the community, teach or attended the Midwest Leadership School, 2U Board members and past seminar attendees.

U 2 Can Be a Leader will be held **Saturday, December 2nd at Second Unitarian from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** We will start by settling in with complimentary food and beverages.** **Program activities will begin promptly at 8:30.** Child care is available; please give the name(s) and age(s) of your child(ren) when you register.

Reserve your space in the Leadership Development Seminar, *U 2 Can Be a Leader* before **Sunday, November 19th** by sending your name(s) to leadership@2uomaha.org. Don't delay.....the number of participants who can be served in this seminar is limited.

Why attend THIS leadership seminar at Second Unitarian Church?

- You are interested in finding ways to be involved in your church.
- You are an established leader in the congregation or at your worksite and want to improve your skills for leading groups and handling challenging interactions.
- 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 time in the future to serve on the Board, the Stewardship Committee, or to chair some other committee within the congregation.
- You want to expand your knowledge about leadership skills from what you learned at a previous seminar.

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

Retirees' Group

Viewing the documentary *USS Indianapolis: The Legacy*

Please join us on **Tuesday, November 14th at 1 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We will honor Veterans' Day with a viewing of *USS Indianapolis: The Legacy*. *The Legacy* tells the tale of the World War II heavy cruiser using exclusively first person accounts. The last crew and their families share gripping stories of kamikaze attacks, invasions, a secret mission, and ultimately a devastating torpedo attack that killed three fourths of the crew. The survivors recall the 5 days they spent floating alone in the Pacific Ocean, their miraculous rescue and how they fought together to clear their captain's name. The documentary runs 98 minutes. We'll have treats and drinks for this meeting while we see and hear about this amazing story.

All are welcome to attend - there's no membership criteria or card required - just come. Retirees' Group meets monthly for socialization and learning.



Fall Cleanup Saturday, November 11th!

Our Fall Yard Cleanup Day is scheduled for **Saturday, November 11th from 8 a.m. to Noon.** (We will not meet if it is wet outside.) There will be plenty of tasks for everyone!

Women's Alliance

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend the Women's Alliance gathering on **Monday, November 13th** in the First Unitarian common room. **Socializing and beverages start at 6:30pm with dinner following at 7pm.** Our November program will be presented by Michaela Williams, the president of Care Consultants for the Aging. Care Consultants for the Aging is the first home care registry to provide a comprehensive free resource guide to eldercare in Omaha. The ElderCare Resource Handbook includes complete listings of government resources, medical support, home health care, living options, and other senior services within the Omaha metro area. Williams will lead us through various stages of aging while focusing on care options using the handbook.

Need childcare to join us? No problem! Women's Alliance now offers childcare. When you RSVP please include your child's name, how old your child is and any dietary needs they require. Pizza will be provided for the children.

We ask for \$15 which goes to the cost of the dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, and the Partner Church scholarship. If this will be your first time attending a WA get-together, please be our guest. Pizza and salad will be the dinner of choice, including a gluten-free and vegan option. When you RSVP please indicate whether you prefer MEAT, CHEESE, GLUTEN-FREE, or VEGAN. Please RSVP via the Facebook event page on First Unitarian's page, or by emailing [Jeri Thurber](#).

Program Council

Committee chairs, you are invited to attend the next meeting of Program Council. - **Saturday, November 11th from 9 a.m. to 10:30.** We'll send out reminders and an agenda as we get closer, but please put it into your calendar. We look forward to seeing everyone!

November Share the Plate Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, & Maria Relief Funds

Due to the emergency situations in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico our offering will be shared with the hurricane communities' recovery and relief funds. **We will be sharing our plate with these communities until the end of December.**

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.

CUUPS Business Meeting and Potluck



CUUPS will hold a business meeting at First Unitarian on **Sunday, November 5th at 6 p.m.** in the Common Room. **Meeting will start promptly at 6:30.** We will be electing our Team Leader-elect and possibly a Secretary. We will also cover a Covenant and By-Laws. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Meditation Group

Here is a wonderful antidote to holiday stress: meditation. Drop in on the Meditation Group at our upcoming meetings, and we will share our knowledge and offer support and encouragement. At our meetings, we talk about and practice the skills of meditation. Meditation is a practice that can be easily learned by anyone and is very helpful in dealing with stress, negative emotions, and an over-active mind.

Meetings start at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. No previous meditation experience is needed. Upcoming meetings will be on **November 15th and December 20th.**



Calling All Youth - Check out YRUU!

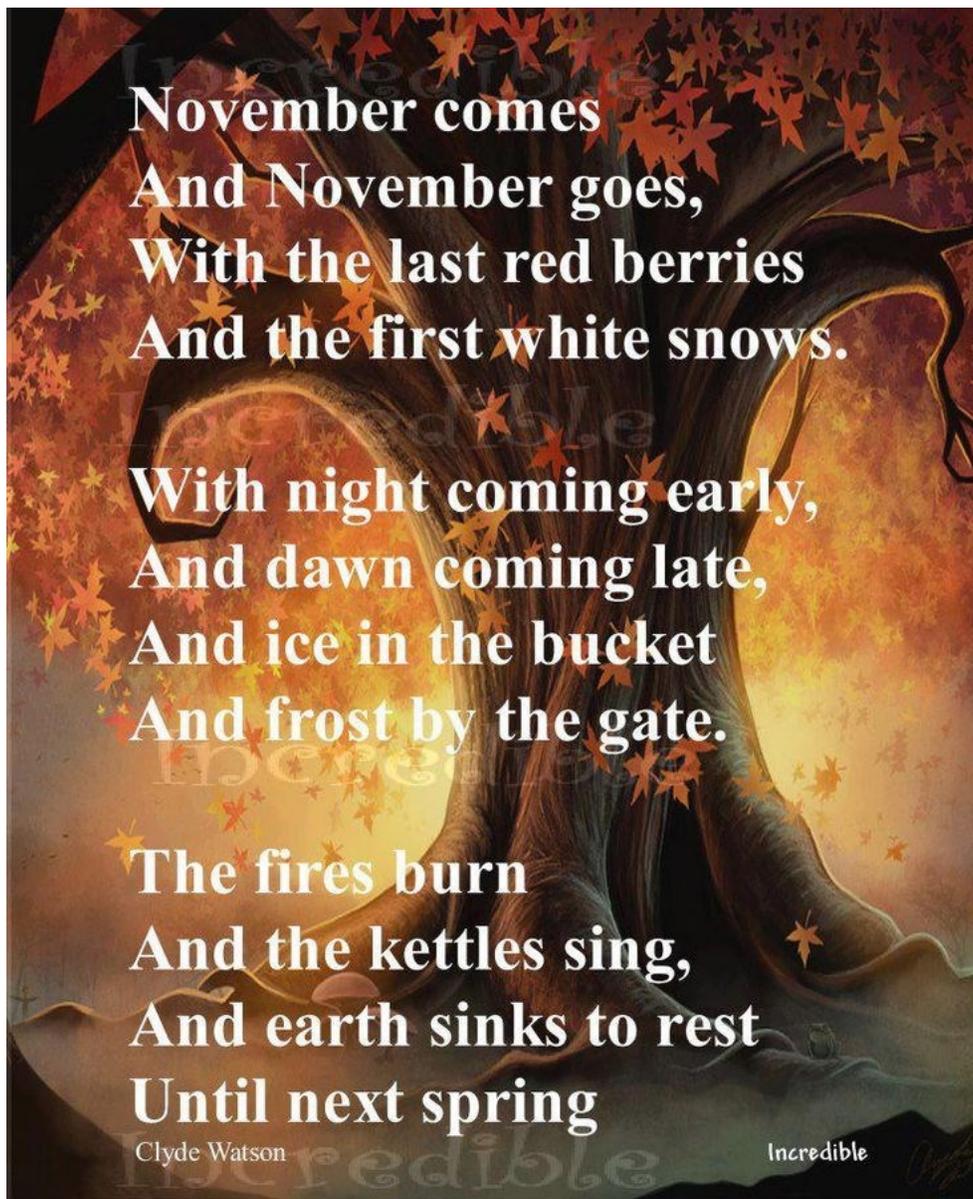


Join in fun, fellowship, and faith development at the YRUU youth group! **Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. from September to May**, the youth from Second Unitarian join First Unitarian youth for YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). Youth 7th grade to 12th grade meet in the Common Room at 1st U. Check it out!

Thanksgiving Dinner November 18th



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 18th, 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 p.m. Please contact Judy Eller, Lynn Alsman, or Janet Nichols if you have questions, ideas or if you can help.



Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) Update

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee

Our congregation is a member of Omaha Together One Community (OTOC), the local congregation-based community organizing group. After summer training sessions, OTOC is implementing basic organizing practices to grow and become even more involved in making our area a better place to live in 2018.

Delegates Congress November 13th

A key step is congregation approval of goals on **November 13th, 7 p.m.** at St. Pius Parish Center, 70th & Blondo. Be ready to answer “yes” when someone from our Social Justice Committee asks for your commitment to attend this Delegates Congress.

Action Team Updates

- **Environmental Sustainability:** The team is focusing on clean water and a transparent bidding process for Omaha’s city waste management contracts
- **Immigration Reform:** 3,000 immigrant families from El Salvador work and live among us under Temporary Protective Status. The team is calling attention to the fact that their status is being threatened by the current federal administration.
- **Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization:** Team members are hosting Housing Stakeholders Conversations to address substandard and rental housing in Omaha. A panel from Family Housing Advisory Services, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance, and the Heartland Workers Center will speak about issues they have identified on **November 8th at 10 a.m.** to noon at the Heartland Workers Center, 4923 S. 24th Street. To attend, make a reservation by calling the OTOC office, 402-344-4401.

Nebraska Sierra Club Harvest Moon Banquet



The Harvest Moon Banquet fundraiser will help fund their extensive environmental advocacy program in Nebraska. **November 10th at the Field Club. Social Hour with cash bar at 6:00 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm.** David Domina will be our guest speaker -- Defending Landowners from KXL Pipeline. The buffet style dinner will include vegetarian selections. Reserve your seat

for \$50 by going to <http://www.sierraclub.org/nebraska>. Clyde Anderson has some tickets for those who can't afford the reservation fee and wish to go.

Omaha Coffee and Learning at Urban Abbey

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee

Our Each month the Urban Abbey coffee shop in the Old Market donates 10% of counter sales to a like-minded community partner. November's recipient is OTOC (Omaha Together One Community)! Stop by 10th and Jackson for a treat, plan a get-together with friends, schedule a 2U Committee meeting, or learn about social justice issues.

Learning Opportunities

- **Saturday, November 4th at 6:30 p.m.**

The Great Plains United Methodist Conference will show the first film about Gaza made by Palestinians living the reality of Israel's siege and blockage of the tiny Gaza area. Find out about the impact of modern warfare and sanctions on the civilian population.

- **Monday, November 6th at 6:45 p.m.**

Hear from **immigrants from El Salvador** who have lived here under Temporary Protective Status since 2001. OTOC Immigration Team will let us know how we can help 3,000 families remain in Omaha.

- **Thursday, November 9th at 7 p.m.**

Find out how **PTSD** impacts military veterans, their families and the Omaha community.

- **Friday, November 17th at 6:45 p.m.**

State Senator Tony Vargas will discuss changes in Federal regulations and state law to better regulate predatory lending in Nebraska. Vargas and Immigration Attorney Ross Pesek will also discuss up-to-date developments in federal and state law and policy regarding Temporary Protective Status, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and other immigration issues.

Appleseed Phone Banks for DACA

Nebraska Appleseed is looking for Omaha volunteers for phone banks in the coming months. Congress only has a few months to pass legislation to protect DREAMers from deportation and provide a pathway to citizenship. Nebraska Appleseed is advocating the bipartisan DREAM Act of 2017 and will be hosting weekly phone banks to encourage people to call their representatives. **The next one is Thursday, November 2nd at 5:30 p.m. W. Dale Clark Library 15th and Farnam**

Beginning Tuesday November 7th, phone banks will be held Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. location TBD.

If interested in volunteering, contact kmadsen@neappleseed.org or call/text 712-310-3301 for more info



Mark your calendars and attend as many of the nights – all of the nights – that are possible for you. The Jewish Federation of Omaha and the Institute for Holocaust Education (IHE) are pleased to present the 16th Annual Omaha Jewish Film Festival.

SHOWTIME: 7PM *(for all screenings)*

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. No movie night is complete without something to munch on. Popcorn, snacks, and beverages will be available each evening.

NOVEMBER 5: There Are Jews Here

USA, 2016 | 90 min. | Documentary | English

JCC Theater | Tickets: \$5

NOVEMBER 12: Dirty Wolves

Spain, 2015 | 105 min. | Drama | French, German & Spanish with English subtitles

JCC Theater | Tickets: \$5

NOVEMBER 19: Rock in the Red Zone

Israel, 2015 | 87 min. | Documentary | English and Hebrew with English subtitles

JCC Theater | Tickets: \$5

Generously sponsored by: Henry Monsky Lodge of B'nai B'rith, and the following Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation funds: Klutznick/Creighton Custodial Fund, Frederick J. Simon Memorial Endowment Fund, Samuel & Bess Rothenberg Memorial Endowment Fund, Lois Jeanne Schragger Memorial Fund, Kenneth Ray Tretiak Memorial Fund, Ruth Frisch & Oscar S. Belzer Endowment Fund and the Avy L. & Roberta L. Miller Film Fund.

Visit jewishomaha.org for more information and show details!



Second Unitarian Church

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Abundance

November 5th: *Our Beloved Dead* - In keeping with the practices of faiths and cultures worldwide, we will observe a remembrance of our beloved dead. Please bring pictures and/or other mementos of those beloved to you who have passed – family, friends, animals. We will build an altar, hear a story and re-connect with those who have gone before.

November 12th: *A People of Abundance*- What does it mean to be a people of abundance, in our lives and here at Second Unitarian? Especially – what does it mean when we might have such strong feelings of fear, hopelessness and scarcity right now?

November 19th: *Thanksgiving* - We will celebrate Thanksgiving with a Bread Communion. Please bring a bit of bread to share that reflects your family's and/or your cultural traditions.

November 26th: Lay-led service