



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## *Second Thoughts*

April, 2013

### Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services  
9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Fellowship and  
Refreshments  
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

**All-Church  
Birthday Party**  
Saturday, April 13  
see page 4

**Strategic Planning  
Conversation**  
Saturday, April 13  
see page 6

**Spring  
Church Cleanup**  
April 27  
see page 5

**Social Justice  
Movie Night**  
Sunday, April 28  
see page 8

### The April Worship Theme is *Salvation*

#### April 7

#### *A Call to Stories*

Rev. Patricia Jimenez

What is important about my life? How do I know that I've made a difference? What do I want people -- someone, anyone -- to know about me? How do I know how we are different? How do I know how we are the same? Storytelling is one of the ways we make connections with one another. But just how does that work? And can just anyone do it? Let's find out!

#### April 14

#### *Spirit in Practice*

Chaplain Lane Campbell

Come explore what it means to engage in acts that feed our souls and our spirits. We will take a look at some examples of daily ways to live out our faith and to renew our commitment to Unitarian Universalism. Let us join in story, song, and spoken word as we examine our own spiritual practices - the things we do that put us better in touch with our own aliveness.

#### April 21

#### *J. Sterling Morton, Creator of Arbor Day*

Darrel Draper

Friday, April 26, is the 141st Arbor Day celebration in Nebraska. Today, Darrel Draper portrays J. Sterling Morton who will review his life and how he championed the holiday we call Arbor Day.

#### April 28

#### *Wounded Words*

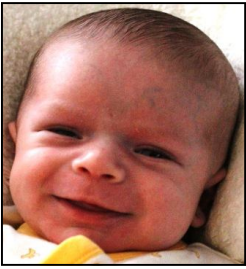
Rev. Scott McNeill

For months, even years, Rev. Scott has wanted to preach a sermon or two on the words we use in religious community that cause some of us to wince when we hear them. So bring some of the words that **you** wonder about (why and how we use them). And we'll talk about those as well as some of the following: prayer, grace, sin, redemption, calling, salvation - April's theme, God, worship, church, fellowship, antidisestablishmentarianism - ok, that was *mostly* to see who read this far. This will be a good chance to remember to wrestle with what we believe in light of what the community around us teaches.



## Son-of-Minister's Musings

By Elijah "Eli" McNeill



This morning, everything felt brand new! There are these strange, large creatures who awoke with me and talked to me non-stop. They both giggle and laugh, speaking and smiling all the time. I wonder what's wrong with them – what could they possibly be thinking.

First thing after I wake up, I drool a bit. Drooling is a nice spiritual practice – it reminds me to be present to my body. I don't need to worry about control; I can simply surrender to gravity. Speaking of which, why do I understand gravity so early? I haven't even had an apple fall on my head!

Next, the giants carry me around, changing my clothes regularly. It's so nice to have these things meeting my every need – I don't even need to speak before they try to please me. And yet, that often means that they try to solve problems that do not exist. Again, what do they have against surrendering to the moment and simply letting me be?

Today is interesting because everything I see is new. That's how it was yesterday, too. Day after day, I am greeted by new ideas, new things, new people, new scents, new feelings. If life continues like this, I will surely become overwhelmed by it all. Soon, I shall start naming everything I see, for I feel as though I've been given dominion over it all (I mean, as soon as I appear, everyone starts fussing over me – I must be some sort of God).

There are a couple of four-legged creatures who smell atrociously. Still, they receive food and attention from the giants – so they must be a rung or two above the giants in the food chain. All of this thinking has made me tired, it must be time for a nap...

...I've been woken up – and everything seems new again! Over and over again, the giant creatures say my name and ask who the cutest baby is. They seem to have a severe mental defect which causes them to ask the same questions repeatedly, expecting an answer from me.

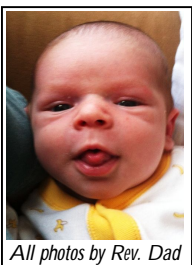
I have these movable objects that I flail about – the giants have them, too and they use them to feed me, hold me, carry me, rock me, swing me, and so on. I think I'll get used to them – "arms", they call them. And at the end of those – I have something called, "hands" that even came with opposable thumbs! Clearly, I arrived installed with the latest hardware updates.



Every couple of hours, I take a nap and eat some food. Life can only get better from here – I expect that the giants will wait on me hand and foot for the rest of my life. Then again, I'm still uncertain what "life" means. Oh, goodness, here comes time for another nap..."yawn."

It's gotten dark, and the giants are yawning. Why don't they have someone to clean and feed them, much like I do? Apparently I am the superior being, and always will be. One day, I will remind them of my greatness – but for now, I'll keep my thoughts to myself.

The one they call "Dad" says it's time for me to sleep. Little does he know, I've been planning to stay awake all night – keeping them tired enables my maniacal plans. Time to practice using my lungs, in order to sound the alarms and keep them on their toes. And then, when I'm good and ready, it'll be back to sleep for King Eli.



Love,  
*Eli*

P.S. Happy April Fool's Day from Rev. Scott!

*All photos by Rev. Dad*



## Planks and Slivers from the Board

*By Nancy VanderSluis Chair, Board of Trustees*



*Happy spring!* The sun is shining, things are warming up outside, and there are lots of great things happening.

The Stewardship campaign will be mostly complete by the time you read this. I so appreciate your joining me to support this vital community. Every pledge counts and thank you to each of you. And if you've been distracted by life, it's not too late. Join in supporting the financial needs of our church.

There is a bigger world of Unitarian Universalism out there that's easy to ignore. One way to get connected with others in our faith is through the Prairie Star District conference. This year's conference has the theme, "Inspire the Future We Envision." It's being held April 5-7 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Anyone can and is encouraged to attend. Check it out at [www.psdaua.org](http://www.psdaua.org). Registrations will be accepted at the door.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Annual Meeting this year which will be **Sunday, May 19**, after the second service. For new members, this is the meeting when we vote on the candidates for board of trustees, endowment committee, and nomination and leadership development committee. We also approve the budget for 2013-2014 and vote for delegates to the UUA General Assembly, as well as vote on any other congregational issue needing resolution. Your voice and vote is important. Please plan to attend.

The yearly national meeting of Unitarian Universalists is called General Assembly, and it's happening June 19-23 in Louisville, Kentucky. Important business will be conducted and our church will contribute through the votes of our delegates. If you are interested in attending this year to be a delegate or to simply enjoy the energy and warmth of our national gathering, please let me know.

*Nancy*



### Share the Plate for April: Radio Talking Book Service

**One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in April will go to Radio Talking Book Service.**

Radio Talking Book Service (RTBS) is a reading service for over 7,500 blind and visually disabled persons living in Nebraska and surrounding states. Their mission is to provide information and cultural opportunities to individuals who have visual or physical disabilities preventing them from reading printed material or from viewing community events and activities. RTBS is financed entirely by donations. Free receivers are provided for eligible listeners. More information is at [www.rtbs.org](http://www.rtbs.org).

To nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, visit the church website or contact the Social Justice Coordinating Council or Rev. Scott.



## Treasurer's Report

By Pat Caffrey, Treasurer

**Second Unitarian Church**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**Month End for February 28, 2013**

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	February	Year-To-Date
Income	\$21,858.19	\$143,834.47
Expenses	-\$15,877.43	-\$128,987.49
Net Over/Short	\$ 5,980.76	\$ 14,846.98

**YTD Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$118,032.63  
reflects 70.36% of \$167,758.00 Total Pledged for  
2012-13.

**YTD New Pledge Income/Current Year:** \$5,062.45  
received of New Pledges for \$10,620.00 for 2012-13.

*If you would like more detailed financial statements, please  
contact me.*

**Thank you!**  
Treasurer  
Pat Caffrey

**Happy, Happy Birthday Everyone!**

*Yes, a birthday celebration for the  
whole church community!*

**The All-Church Birthday Party!**  
**Saturday, April 13, 3 to 4:30**

*This is a family event.* The children will decorate cupcakes  
(adults too, if the children give permission).

We will share birthday stories, history, events that  
happened on our special day, the best birthday gift we ever  
received, and children will lead us in singing  
"Happy Birthday."

***Please join us!***



## Building & Grounds - Spring Church Cleanup

*By Clyde Anderson & Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs*

### Church Spring Cleanup – Saturday, April 27

Our Spring Church Cleanup is **Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m. to Noon**. There will be plenty of tasks for everyone! For example, paint exterior areas of the building (weather permitting), fertilize the lawn, rake leaves, set up and repair the irrigation system, clean up flower gardens and plant annuals, and clean windows.

Please note the event on your calendar, and we hope many of you can help, even for just a few hours.

Refreshments will be provided. There will be no childcare, but children with adult supervision are welcome to participate!

For more information, contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.

Starting in April --

### COFFEE CHATS AT CHURCH



**Interested in having more time to get to know others from church? Have questions you'd like to ask (or answers you'd like to give)?**

**Join us for coffee on Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m.**

We'll have snacks and beverages to offer as people gather together for fun and conversation.

There's no agenda, no business, nothing more than good ol' fashioned time together and some light music in the background.

Another round of our "Coffee Chat" will take place on Wednesday, May 8 and Wednesday, June 12!

## Pagan Group

*By Leslie (Briar) Harvey*

Join us on **Friday, April 5, from 6-9 p.m.** for dinner and more intellectual pursuits. We'll be looking at the bits and pieces of Pagan ritual, from casting the circle to thanking deity. Childcare will be available.

## Women's Alliance

*By Ellen Shurson*

The Women's Alliance holds its next meeting **Monday, April 8**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church. Women from both Omaha Unitarian churches are welcome.

Our speaker will be Elaine Wells, who will present "Adventures in India: A Month that Changed my Life," sharing pictures and stories from her 2010 trip. Dinner (\$12) will be catered from Mangia.

If this is your first time, please be our guest. Reservations must be made no later than Friday, April 5, to Janet West.



## Adult Education/Discussions In April & May

By Rev Scott McNeill

Please join us for upcoming Adult Religious Education discussions. These sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, and Wednesday, May 29. **Register for either or both of these by emailing Rev. Scott at [minister@2uomaha.org](mailto:minister@2uomaha.org)** (some groups will have more spots than others).

### **April 24: "What is ministry? And who is our minister?"**

This is an opportunity to reflect together on what ministry means in a church that values collaboration. Three years ago, the church looked for a minister and, subsequently, called Rev. Scott to come and work with the congregation as its settled minister. What does that mean? Come chat with us to talk about Rev. Scott's vision of ministry, what Rev. Sarah Gettie's hospital ministry is like, and share your own thoughts about church. Part of our class will be to remember the ministers of Second Unitarian, and to offer gratitude for those who have served us (particularly the late Rev. Nancy Haley, whom we miss dearly). Please let Rev. Scott know if you will be there, as he will likely have handouts/printed information.

**May 29: "A Rainbow of Experiences - Exploring Identity in Unitarian Universalism"** With the help of Naomi Solomon and Scott McNeill, we will discuss how UUism became what it is. It's due in large part to different parts of identity politics and progress - Feminism, people with disabilities, people who are bisexual, lesbian or gay, people who are trans or genderqueer, and we'll discuss how race and class fit into it all. Please register for this class, as we will send you some things to think about before the program. We plan to limit it to 15-20 people for this workshop, and we hope that anyone who attends will come with an open mind and an open ear to hear new experiences and challenge their old assumptions.

### ***You are Invited!***

*What:* An important conversation regarding the future

*Hosts:* The Strategic Planning Committee

*When:* **Saturday morning, April 13, 8:30 to 11:30**

*Where:* In the Church sanctuary

*Why:* To make certain that we are capturing your best thinking, and to deepen our conversations about carrying out our mission.

Breakfast and childcare will be available.

***RSVP by April 7 to any member of the committee  
or to [info@2uomaha.org](mailto:info@2uomaha.org)***

*Your Planning Committee:* Steve Abraham, Carol Johnson,  
Rich McArdle, Stephanie Peterson, Craig Piquette



## Parents' Group

*By Stephen Straub*

The Parent's Group is open to anyone who is a parent (or who is about to become a parent, or who just likes hanging around to hear the parenting horror stories). We meet on the fourth Sunday each month for mutual support, for laughs about our "mistakes," for spiritual growth as parents, and perhaps to just get away from the kids for a brief respite.

On **Sunday April 28**, the Parent's Group will be meeting at the church from 4-6 p.m. for check-in and snacks. We plan on discussing our reflections on a book about being not-perfect parents in a not-perfect world – *Hopes and Fears* by Moses and McCleneghan. From the publisher's description, "*Hopes and Fears* is neither a 'how-to' book nor a mere meditation. Rather, the authors seek to find the beautiful and the spiritual in the sometimes mundane activities that parents have performed since the beginning of history, while at the same time allowing beautiful and spiritual insights of the past to inform and shape the activities of modern parenting."

New parents are always welcome to the group and are encouraged share their own questions and experiences. Feel free to invite friends and relatives from outside the church if you think they would be interested.

## Meditation Reincarnated

*By Kevin Dunlop*

In his book *You Are Here*, Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh writes, "Mindfulness is not an evasion or escape. It means being here, present, and totally alive. It is true freedom - and without this freedom, there is no happiness."

The group Meditation Reincarnated is studying this text in our monthly meetings. We meet in the church downstairs on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:45 p.m. and learn about and practice meditation. Our April meeting is **Thursday, April 25**.

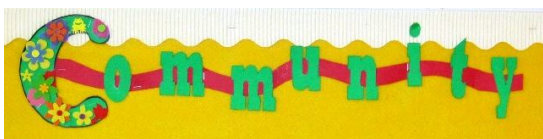
Both the book and our meditation practice is designed for everyone, whether monk or beginner. No previous meditation experience is necessary, so please come and check us out.

## Retirees' Group

*By Richard Koelling*

The Retirees' Group meets **Tuesday, April 9**, at 1 p.m., to share thoughts about what direction the group should take in the future. For almost two years now, we've had a number of well-attended, successful presentations, but perhaps it's time for more variety or a new emphasis rather than just having guest speakers.

So speak up and offer some suggestions and opinions. Think about it for a couple of weeks and come prepared, but, so you won't get stressed, there won't be any written or oral exams to see if you've done your homework. That's for the young folks.

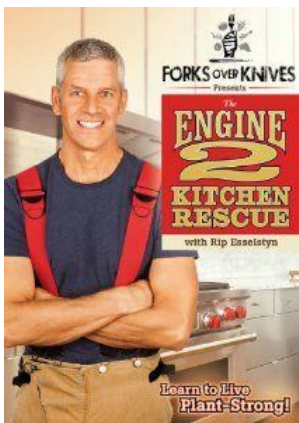


A **Community News bulletin board** is now available! If you have information about non-religious events, the bulletin board **above the piano in the RE area** is available for that purpose. Please date and sign your postings. They will be left up for 2 weeks.



## Social Justice Movie Night April 28

*By Marcia Leise*



Join us at Second Unitarian for Social Justice Movie Night on **Sunday, April 28** for the film "Engine 2 Kitchen Rescue" beginning at 6 p.m., preceded by an optional potluck dinner at 5:30 -- bring a dish to share.

As a world-class triathlete turned firefighter, Rip Esselstyn was used to responding to emergencies. When he learned that one of his fellow Engine 2 firefighters in Austin, Texas, was in dire physical condition with a dangerously high cholesterol level of 344, he sprang into action and motivated the entire Engine 2 firehouse to join together in plant-strong solidarity to help save the life of their friend. His friend's cholesterol was lowered to 196 and his health greatly improved.

See how Rip works with families to take control of their own health, including cooking lessons to make family favorite dishes plant-strong.

## Library Committee

*By Pete Miller*

### Boruff Book of the Month: A Selection from the Macyl Boruff Memorial Library

This month, Rev. Scott McNeill picked [A Language of Reverence](#), ed. by Dean Grodzins:

"A number of years ago, the president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (Rev. Bill Sinkford) made a comment in a speech or sermon one day. It wasn't necessarily meant to be well-known, but sure enough it spread like wildfire throughout the UU churches and peoples. He said that we, as a religious body, needed to struggle with and find, "a language of reverence." Most of the controversy dealt with whether or not he aimed to add the word "God" to our principles (God appeared in most Unitarian and Universalist statements of faith until 1961).

So, I recommend you read a book about [The] [Language of Reverence](#). In it, feminists and humanists, theists and many more diverse people write about their relationship to that which is holy and its place in our churches. No definitive answer is found; yet, they all recommend that as Unitarian Universalists, we struggle with the question of how do we define and talk about the sacred in life."

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The Macyl Boruff Memorial Library is excited to announce the arrival of some thought-provoking new titles:

[Religion for Atheists: A Non-Believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion](#) by the highly regarded Alain de Botton; [Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World](#) by Michael Dowd, a United Church of Christ Minister, who, the New York Times says, "presents evolution as a sacred epic of emerging complexity";

[Gravity's Engines: How Bubble-Blowing Black Holes Rule Galaxies, Stars, and Life in the Cosmos](#) by Caleb Scharf, a book whose very title could blow your mind; [The Pen and The Bell: Mindful Writing in a Busy World](#) by Brenda Miller, Holly J. Hughes, and Norman Fischer; and, for all those who enjoyed his great sermon a few weeks back, Reverend Ron Knapp's new memoir [Moments in a Life](#).

Remember these are your books: Check them out!



## Lifespan Religious Growth & Learning

By Kirsten Stiles, Director of Religious Growth & Learning

### Photographers Wanted!



Are you interested in exploring your creative side through photography? It may be a hobby you already love or something you have always wanted to give a try. I have the perfect opportunity for you.

We are looking for someone available to capture the experience during our monthly Family Service Learning Projects. We can provide you with the equipment to do the job, or you are welcome to use a camera of your own if you like. Contact Kirsten Stiles at 402-334-0537, ext. 112 or [dre@2uomaha.org](mailto:dre@2uomaha.org) to get more information if your interest has been sparked!

### April Family Service Learning Project

The April 28 Family Service Learning Project will be right here in our own back yard at Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Please come prepared to get a little messy. You will not know what your job entails until you arrive. It could involve painting or digging in the dirt. We will meet outside on the lawn at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 28.

### Toolbox of Faith

The tool of the month for April is duct tape. The children will learn flexibility. We will teach participants that Unitarian Universalism is a faith that will grow and adapt with you as your life changes.

It also demonstrates that Unitarian Universalism comes from a flexible, living tradition that has as one source direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

If you have any stories of flexibility and would like to share, we would love to have you as a guest this month.

Kirsten

### 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!



## 2013 Prairie Star District Annual Conference

*By Vicki Pratt*

Registration is open for our Unitarian Universalist District Annual Conference. This year's conference is April 5-7 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Rev. Stefan Jonasson will kick off the conference by talking about the itinerant preachers, settled ministers, and missionary societies that first got Unitarianism and Universalism established in the northern plains. The Judy Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Rev. Christine Robinson. She will talk about some of the things we should be thinking about if we want our faith and brand to thrive.

A crucial decision will be made at the Saturday Annual Business Meeting: whether to dissolve the Prairie Star District and re-form as the MidAmerica Region. The new region would be comprised of the current Prairie Star, Heartland, and Central Midwest Districts. Votes will be cast by congregation delegates.

Other activities include workshops, awards, information booths, fellowship, and worship services.

More information is at <http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2013>

To carpool, contact Vicki Pratt.

## Earth Day Omaha

*By Vicki Pratt, Green Sanctuary Committee*



Our church will again have an information booth at Earth Day Omaha at Elmwood Park. This year's celebration is **Saturday, April 20**. Come out

to enjoy sun, live music, demonstrations, a variety of foods from local vendors, and children's activities. The full schedule is at [earthdayomaha.com](http://earthdayomaha.com).

Second Unitarian's booth features our community garden. We distribute packets of organic seeds. This year we'll give away Sugar Baby watermelon seeds. Sugar Babies set on compact vines, so are perfect for small gardens. These sweet, crunchy pink watermelons have black rinds and grow to 10-12 pounds in 60 days.

**How you can help:** We are looking for volunteers to help package the seeds a week or so before Earth Day and volunteers to be in the booth for an hour at the park. Please contact Vicki Pratt. This is a great family project, an opportunity to talk with our members, and a way to meet like-minded people.

## Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

*By Naomi Solomon, Youth Programming Coordinator*

March gave us an opportunity to get together with both ministers to discuss the future of YRUU. Thank you to everyone who attended! Parents had a chance to discuss their expectations and hopes. Advisors mentioned practices that have and haven't worked. Ministers observed the emotional struggle to keep things the way they are. We now look to the teens themselves to step up and show how this youth group can be more than it ever has been.

This past month has shown how much we need to build strong teen leaders who will help carry YRUU through inevitable congregational changes. We look forward to building stronger connections to each church through improved communication efforts and amped-up participation goals.

Please talk with a current YRUU teen, advisor, parent, or minister about how you can get more involved.





## OTOC Spring Fun(d)raiser at Hot Shops

*By Vicki Pratt*

**Omaha Together  
One Community**  
OTOC

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) is a congregation-based community organization that works to make Omaha a better place to live. Second Unitarian is one of the founding member institutions.

Everyone is invited to join OTOC for their annual Spring Fundraiser at Hot Shops Art Center on **Saturday, April 27**, from 6 to 9:30 p.m., at the Hot Shops Art Center, 13th and Nicholas.

The evening features appetizers and desserts, soft drinks (cash bar for wine and beer), live jazz, wide variety of silent auction items, and getting acquainted with members of congregations throughout Omaha. As a bonus, many of the artists will have their shops open for browsing.

Tickets are on sale during coffee hour between services: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. More info about Hot Shops: [www.hotshopsartcenter.com](http://www.hotshopsartcenter.com).

## OTOC Candidates Forum

*By Vicki Pratt*

### City Election Candidates' Accountability Session

Elections for Omaha mayor and city council are fast approaching. OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) has set up a candidates' accountability session before the May 14 General Election.

The Accountability Session is **Tuesday, May 6**, at 7 p.m., at St Pius X Catholic Church, 6905 Blondo.

Come find out how candidates stand on immigration reform, housing and neighborhood development, work force development, education, and summer enrichment programs for youth.

## Second Circle Reconstruction Update

*By Anita Jeck*

As mentioned in the February newsletter, Second Circle for teen youth is not meeting on Sunday mornings as that was no longer a good venue to meet their needs. Twice now we have met on a Sunday late afternoon for a bit of "Popcorn Theology," a time to view a movie and discuss the values portrayed over pizza and popcorn.

The group decided to meet on a regular basis the third Sunday of every month at 4:00 p.m. at the church. We are excited and delighted to have Omaha World-Herald movie critic Bob Fischbach join us!

**Teens and parents: Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 21, 4-7 p.m.!** We tentatively decided as a group to view *My Bodyguard* (PG) in April, but another suggestion is *Saved!* (PG-13) which goes well with April's worship theme of salvation, so we'll keep you posted. Meanwhile we'll be seeking some teen input into these decisions.

**Parents:** Please consider supporting our "Popcorn Theology" ministry by helping with logistics and food when asked. Questions may be directed to Anita Jeck.

***Thank you to everyone for your support!***

## 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.

## Membership Journeys

*By Kathy Bell, Volunteer Membership Coordinator*

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Second Unitarian Church? We invite all who are interested in membership to participate in our next “Pathways to Membership” class which will be held on **Saturday, June 1** from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

After a tasty breakfast, you will learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and of this church, be given the opportunity to share a few words about your religious journeys with each other, hear about our ministries, and learn about the benefits and expectations of church membership. Some find this a meaningful time to become a member, so an opportunity to sign the Membership Book will be provided at the end of the class. We will wrap up the morning with lunch and fellowship with several church leaders.

If you're interested, please reserve a seat in class by contacting [membership@2uomaha.org](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org) by Sunday, May 26. Please indicate if you will need childcare when you sign up for the class.

<b>Attendance</b>				
Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Family Service Learning
3/3	83	6	13	--
3/10	Weather cancellation			--
3/17	81	6	11	--
3/24	85	4	10	--



Most church communications are sent via email. A weekly e-news update is transmitted each Wednesday. If you have no access to a computer, please let the church office administrator know the best way to convey information to you.

**Second Unitarian Church of Omaha**  
3012 South 119th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68144  
402-334-0537  
[www.2Uomaha.org](http://www.2Uomaha.org)

### ***Shop at Amazon.com and Help Second Unitarian Church***

Your online purchases can help the church! Here's how: Visit the church website at [www.2Uomaha.org](http://www.2Uomaha.org), under Quick Links click on Books, and then click on the link for Amazon.com. *Up to five percent of your purchase will be donated to the church.* What a great and painless way to shop and help the church at the same time!

## **Staff**

### **Rev. Scott McNeill, Minister**

Office hours by appointment  
402-334-0537 ext. 111  
[minister@2Uomaha.org](mailto:minister@2Uomaha.org)

### **Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill, Affiliated Community Minister**

[communityminister@2Uomaha.org](mailto:communityminister@2Uomaha.org)

### **Kirsten Stiles, Director Religious Growth & Learning**

402-334-0537 ext. 112  
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### **Gary Emenitove, Office Administrator**

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## **Second Unitarian at Omaha Peace & Justice Expo**

*By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice Committee*

Second Unitarian is participating at this year's Omaha Peace and Justice Expo, **Wednesday, May 1**. Booths open at 6 p.m. and the keynote speaker is at 7. The location is the UNO Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. Suggested donation is \$5.

The keynote speaker is Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CodePink and author of *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. CodePink is a grassroots peace and social justice movement that works to end U.S. funded wars.

Ms. Benjamin is a former nutritionist with the United Nations. She has been advocating for social justice for more than 30 years. In 2010 she received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize from the Fellowship of Reconciliation. She will discuss how our government's use of drones impacts civilians and our national security.

Second Unitarian will host a booth highlighting our Sixth Principle, to build a fair and peaceful world.

**You can help!** Chat with attendees who visit our booth. Contact Vicki Pratt.

More information at [www.peaceexpo.org](http://www.peaceexpo.org).

**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*