



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## *Second Thoughts*

January, 2015

### *Join Us This Sunday!*

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

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

**IMPORTANT TOWN  
HALL MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 11,**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
following second service  
(see page 3)

***Sing for Your  
Supper***  
**Saturday, January 24**  
(see page 5)

***New Member Class***  
**Saturday, January 24**  
(see page 9)



## ***Happy 2015 !***

- January 4      Chris Peters & Vicki Dudley, Music & Worship  
Service details to be announced
- January 11     Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**Come, Let Us Worship Together**  
What is worship to a Unitarian Universalist? Who or what  
are we worshipping? Does worship matter?  
*Today's second service will be followed by a  
Town Hall Meeting*
- January 18     Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**The New Jim Crow**  
It's time to revisit the findings of Michelle Alexander in the  
light of all of the recent violence by police officers. How do  
we respond to the cries for justice from the black  
community?
- January 25     Rev. Frieda Gillespie  
**Five Generations**  
How can we invite diversity of generations into this church?  
What are our common denominators?



## In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



Happy New Year!

Once again we begin again. I hope your holidays were wonderful and meaningful. This month we begin to reflect more deeply about the purpose(s) uniting people at Second Unitarian.

To do that, it is essential that each person reflect on what is most meaningful to them here. The Transition Team will be putting together a few questions to get to the heart of what that is for the church as a whole.

As we move through the winter months, we are invited by the harsh weather to inward thoughts. It's very important that the right questions are asked. Questions that lead to new insights and directions.

We can be guided by Howard Thurman's famous words... *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."* There are lots of ways to escape but few to gain new aliveness. It takes courage and often new experiences to find out what makes us come alive. We may be asked to do something new, and we resist because our image of ourselves and the task stop us from saying 'yes!' Say 'yes!' Don't miss a chance to become more alive!

In faith,  
*Frieda*

### ***We asked, and you responded "I AM THANKFUL FOR..."***

**All My Friendships ♦ This church ♦ Community ♦ Family and friends who bring warmth, joy and laughter into my life; for the beauty of nature, music and art; for good health, long life; and for all the teachers and mentors who have guided me on my journey ♦ Family and friends ♦ Good health and most of all for my husband's recovery from pain he has been experiencing for the past 5 months! May we appreciate and enjoy good health. It is truly a blessing! ♦ That the Senate voted not to give approval to the Keystone XL Pipeline ♦ Family, Second Unitarian Church, and food and shelter. ♦ My families - both biological and found ♦ My Family, My Life Husband, Health, Happiness, Love, My Pets ♦ Each new day of life and for the friends and family near and far. We are all one family ♦ my family, for my friends, and for the continually unfolding spiritual journey that I find myself traveling ♦ This accepting and loving community ♦ This Thanksgiving especially thankful for our grandson home from the Marine Corps ♦ Family, friends, interconnection, community ♦ My kids and my wonderful girlfriend, friends and family ♦ The breath of life, the food of spirit, and the joy of humankind ♦ The quality people of this congregation. ♦ Oxygen, water, food, family and my life ♦ Answers to some of my questions. And the questions that I can ask of those answers ♦ All the ways we minister unto each other ♦ My health, family and friends ♦ My wife making me go to the gym ♦ Scientific and medical research to improve health care and medical procedures ♦ Living in a country of plenty even though not always well distributed ♦ My wife, my daughters, my life ♦ This church community that we found so many years ago. It continues to keep us centered and involved. Thank you ♦ Friends and family, earth and sun ♦ My husband, adult children, pets and the interconnected web of life ♦ My continued determination for growth; the relationships in my life that keep me keeping on; 2U and it's heartfelt community ♦ That my sons have grown into wonderful husbands and fathers. I am thankful they have found such wonderful women (my daughter-in-laws) to share their lives with ♦ My husband's retirement; a beautiful autumn and summer**



## Planks and Slivers from the Board

*By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees*



### We Need Each Other

On Sunday, January 11, after second service, there will be a very important meeting in the life of the church that all will want to attend. Frieda Gillespie has been our minister for four months and they have been fun-filled and energy-packed ones. There is a vibrancy in the church in regards to social justice work and a reenergizing of small groups such as circle suppers. The purpose of the meeting is to review what has been accomplished in the past six months and what the church leadership envisions for the next six months. We will also be asking the congregation to brainstorm with us about growth and connections.

I have written in the past about why I came to the church and why I stay. Each one of you has a story about why you came to Second Unitarian and I want to hear it. We need to share our stories because we will find a commonality of purpose and a reason to be together. Many of us consider 2U a sanctuary from the conservatism and negativism that abounds in our world. We want to be the change we wish to see in the world and many hands working together make light work. We need each other for support and what one person can't do alone, a group of committed individuals can easily accomplish. We have all come to Second Unitarian seeking sanctuary but as we tell our stories, we gain strength to face the injustice and right the wrongs of the world, even if it is only to be a witness.

We can only do these things if we are connected to each other in deep and meaningful ways. Second Unitarian can do that but not if that connectedness is based on only seeing each other on Sundays. Connectedness is dependent on common purpose, united action, and frequent communication. Our meeting on January 11 is another means of communicating. At that time we will seek suggestions for how to become more connected with each other and how our stories can flow together into a mighty stream; a force to change the world.

*Craig*

### **IMPORTANT TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Presented by Your Board of Trustees**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 12:30 P.M. (following second service)**

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!**



### **Share the Plate for January: The ARTery**

**One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in January will go to The ARTery.**

The ARTery uses art to strengthen communities by empowering individuals to break down cultural barriers and improve critical thinking and communication skills. Programs include Dancing Classrooms in schools, Saturday Dance Programs, and Dance Camp. Visit [www.ARTeryOmaha.org](http://www.ARTeryOmaha.org).

To nominate an organization for our Share the Plate program, visit the church website or contact the Social Justice Committee.



## Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

### November Income and Expenses

This month our income was higher than expenses.

	November, 2014	Year To Date
Income	\$17,819.59	\$103,347.18 (44% of budget)
Expense	\$16,311.21	\$92,586.98 (40% of budget)
Net Over/Short	\$1,508.38	+ \$10,760.20

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$14,107); New Pledges from Current Members (\$50); Fundraising (\$1,234.44 – book sale and purchases from Amazon.com through church website, fair trade store, yard sale, Thanksgiving meal, plus \$875 that was forwarded to KIOS ); Offering (\$1,023.15). No income or pledges have been received toward the \$8,000 budgeted for New Pledges from New Members.

Be watching emails or paper mail for your End of Year contribution statement.

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at [treasurer@2uomaha.org](mailto:treasurer@2uomaha.org).

## Please Remember the Memo Line!

By Clyde Anderson, Chair, Finance Coordinating Council

When writing checks to the Church, some neglect to write on the memo line what the check is for. Writing the purpose of the contribution in the memo line of the check makes the jobs of the Treasurer and Money Counters easier and helps to eliminate errors.

Here are some typical notations to be used on the memo line:

**Pledge** – Apply the funds to your annual pledge. However, if you didn't turn in a current pledge, we must treat your donation as Offering. That means 50% goes to our Share the Plate partner for the month and 50% goes to fund the operations of the Church. Since some members make low pledges during our Stewardship Campaign because of financial uncertainties, it is always okay to make payments exceeding your pledge goal.

**Offering** – Apply the funds to Offering (50% Share the Plate, 50% Church operations).

**Gift** – A special donation to the Church not to be included in your pledge account.

**Endowment Fund** – Contributions to the Church Endowment Fund.

**Memorial Gift for \_\_\_\_\_** - Donations in memory of a loved one or deceased member or friend of the Church. Unless the family of a deceased member specifies otherwise, memorial gifts are deposited in the Church's Endowment Fund.

**Fundraisers** – The Church holds several fundraisers during the year. On your check please note the fundraiser; example: KIOS, Book Sale, or Auction.

Always make your check payable to **Second Unitarian Church.**

If contributing cash, please use one of the offering envelopes available in the gray hymnals and on the Welcome Desk. Please be sure to write your name on the envelope and what the money is for (Pledge, Offering, etc.).

*Thank you!*



# ***Sing for Your Supper!***

## ***Saturday, January 24, 6 p.m.***

*It's time to chase away those winter blues!*

All talented Second Unitarian Church members, affiliates, and visitors (EVERYONE qualifies!) Polish your musical talents (singing, dancing, instrumental), poetry writing, recitation, and dramatic or humorous readings, or whatever you do.

This is your opportunity to perform at Second Unitarian's annual

**SING FOR YOUR SUPPER, this year on Saturday, January 24.**

**An audience is a must**, so please come even if you are not performing - we need everyone!

Fellowship will furnish bread and beverages - please bring soup or dessert to share.

**The meal will start at 6:00 p.m. with entertainment to follow.**

Childcare will be available from 7 to 9 p.m.

## **United in Purpose—Connected in Love**

*By Cheri Cody, Chair, Stewardship*

**United in Purpose - Connected in Love** is the theme for the 2015 stewardship campaign. This theme came from interviews with 38 randomly chosen members and affiliates as well as spontaneous conversations with many others. What we heard was how important the people in this congregation are to you and how essential being part of this community is to your spiritual well-being. Spiritual well-being comes from us reaffirming with each other our shared values and how we can live those out in the world. We ARE united in purpose and connected in love.

Here are some important dates you may want to put on your calendar:

- February 22, 2015 - Steward Training (after second service)
- February 28, 2015 - Visionary Donor Event
- March 7, 2015 - All church pledge drive kickoff event - Saturday evening
- March 8-22, 2015 - Pledge Campaign



Again, thank you for your generous contributions for our ads on  
**KIOS Public Radio, 91.5 FM.**

For 2015, we are able to purchase 46 ads on *All Things Considered*,  
3:00 to 5:30, Monday through Friday.





## Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



For many of us, the New Year prompts us to evaluate the past year and decide what we need to change. The history of New Year's resolutions is well documented, resolutions made (and broken) by many of us. But in that spirit of evaluation, I also hope that we are able to take a step back and give ourselves and others grace when we do not live up to those resolutions that we made, and give permission to try, try again.

One thing that we struggled with this fall in Religious Education was our 11:30 service. We resolved to bring it back again in November, and we did! We found a merry group of volunteers who stepped up to help us out. Unfortunately, we haven't had the same luck in bringing in children at that time. Looking over attendance, we have had only one Sunday with any children present at the 11:30 time. I believe that if we are to be truly welcoming to our visitors and members, we should offer Sunday church school at both services. I am, however, also pragmatic. I know what it feels like to be a volunteer, prepare and get excited to share a lesson or story with others, only to have no one show up. I'd rather have those individuals free to help our congregation in other ways that suit their talents and support their efforts.

**Therefore, for the time being, I am bringing us back to only offering Sunday church school at the 9:30 a.m. time.** My hope is that, as we reevaluate periodically, we will see the need to add it back in. Meanwhile, if we focus our efforts on providing high quality RE at a single service, we will be rewarded with happy children and families of all kinds. We have seen an increase in overall attendance by children on Sundays, so I take that as a good sign!

I wish to thank these individuals who helped us bring back the 11:30 service: Stu Burns, Pat Caffrey, Deb Gibson, Pam Miller-Jenkins, Meg Quintana, and Becky Scherbring. Without their contributions of time, we could not have tried this and may have missed providing a service. Please take time out to send each of them an email, shake a hand, give a hug or offer a "thank-you."

And, thank you, all, for your grace and patience, as we go with the flow that is part of our "on demand" society. May our shared 2015 be filled with promise, opportunity and growth!

In Joy for our Shared Journey,  
*Molly*

## Second Circle Movie Night

By Anita Meyer

We are starting the new year out right with our Second Circle Teen Movie Night — some reflection on the past and moving forward into 2015!

During November and December, Second Unitarian provided service to the Pine Ridge Reservation by donating items to their young people and elders. We will now explore Native American culture by viewing and discussing *Dances With Wolves* at Second Circle Movie Night on **Sunday, January 18**. This movie is longer than our typical movie so we will be **starting at 3:30 p.m.** instead of our usual 4:30 start time.

Discussion will immediately follow and will be led by our own Bob Fischbach, movie reviewer for the Omaha World-Herald.

We will also be revealing our schedule of movies planned for the next several months. Hope to see all teens 7th grade and older at our next movie!



## Recap of Leadership 101 Seminar

By Carol Johnson, Chair, Nominations and Leadership Development

Our deepest appreciation to the team of Leadership Trainers from the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, KS, to conduct Leadership 101 for our congregation December 5 and 6. There were 19 people from the congregation plus Rev. Frieda at the Seminar. 17 attended both Friday night and Saturday; two were only able to come Saturday. Three of the participants are current Board members. Five participants are new to our congregation or are new leaders in our congregation. Rev. Frieda did a nice piece on generational differences in congregations as part of the training.

As an amazing act of generosity, the training team from Lawrence is donating the stipend we paid them back to our congregation. Their stipulation is that we are to send one of our members to the Midwest Leadership School in Beloit this July. Nominations and Leadership Development Committee will be recruiting not only for vacant positions, but also for someone to attend the school. If you think of someone you'd like us to consider, please forward his or her name to Tom Peterson, Janet Nichols, and/or Carol Johnson

Throughout the Seminar, participants learned about and practiced roles for conducting effective meetings. Don't be surprised if the facilitator at your next meeting asks for volunteers to be Timekeeper, Scribe or Process Observer. You probably can guess the roles of timekeeper and scribe, but process observer might be new to you.

Roles, Process Observer Checklist, and Process Observer Forms are available on the church website [www.2uomaha.org](http://www.2uomaha.org) — near the bottom of OFFICE FORMS which can be accessed either by the QUICK LINK on the right of any page or by clicking on MEMBER RESOURCES at the top of the homepage.

## Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

Second Unitarian Retirees' Group meets monthly for socialization, fun, personal growth, and learning.

On Tuesday, January 13, at 1:00 p.m., Harlan Seyfer, Plattsmouth Historian, will present "Story of the Platte Discovery."

Three hundred years ago, a French explorer introduced Nebraska to Europe. Bourgmont traveled up the Missouri in 1714. He met the Otoe at the mouth of the Platte. The Otoe called the river *Nibraskier*, meaning "Flat Water." Today, the river defines Nebraska.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

### 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!



## OTOC Nights at Urban Abbey

OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) is sponsoring a series of fun and educational evenings at Urban Abbey Coffee House, 1026 Jackson in the Old Market. Enjoy food, coffee/tea/hot chocolate, and conversation.

- ♦ **Friday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. *Mexican Bingo Night***—Mexican Bingo (Lotería), Mexican food, and good times with OTOC leaders and community friends.
- ♦ **Thursday, January 15, 7:00 p.m. OTOC Issues Café: *Immigration***—How the program of deferred action will work, impact Nebraskans, and how the Unicameral could help.
- ♦ **Wednesday, January 21, 7:00 p.m. OTOC Issues Café: *Tax Reform & Medicaid***—Prospects in the 2015 Legislative Session for changes to Nebraska income, property taxes, and Medicare reform.
- ♦ **Wednesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. OTOC Issues Café: *Sustainable Energy***—How to continue efforts to encourage sustainable energy from sources like wind, solar, and bio fuels.

A portion of all January counter sales and packaged coffee sales will be donated to OTOC as Urban Abbey's community partner, so stop by at any time to support OTOC's work.

## Regional Assembly to Explore New Era of UUism

*From the MidAmerica Region*

Join fellow UUs the weekend of April 17-19, 2015, in Naperville, Illinois (a western suburb of Chicago) for **Regional Assembly 2015**. It will be a chance to be together as one region to explore "The New in a New Era of Unitarian Universalism" with presentations by two major speakers: the Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and the Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar.

You can benefit from workshops designed to strengthen your congregation, deepen your social justice work, and enrich you on a personal level. Come and experience the Regional Business Meeting, good food, and time for meeting new friends and old from congregations across our great region, culminating with the joy of shared worship and musical celebration on Sunday morning.

Visit <http://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly>.

MidAmerica Region is building a new era in Unitarian Universalism, where UUs visibly live our faith, create connections, grow our membership, and welcome all persons who share our UU values.

### *Weather-Related Cancellations*

If weather or road conditions cause services or a major church event to be cancelled, we will notify you by:

1. Placing a message on the church phone (402-334-0537),
2. Sending a message to the **weekly email** list,
3. Sending a message on **Facebook**, and
4. Placing a message on the church website ([www.2Uomaha.org](http://www.2Uomaha.org)).

In case of a service cancellation, we will also contact local media with our information.

If you arrive at church and experience patches of ice on the walks and parking lot, deicer and sand are in the foyer. Feel free to use them or alert a member of Building & Grounds to treat the ice. A shovel and broom are also available for snow, with more shovels and brooms in the furnace room.







## Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Chair, Membership Committee

### Pathways to Membership Class Is January 24

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 on Saturday, January 24 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.

To reserve a seat, please contact Katie Tessin at [membership@2uomaha.org](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org) by Sunday, January 18, and also indicate if you will need childcare.

### Join Us for Newcomers Lunch Bunch

We invite newcomers to join us for lunch at a local restaurant on the second Sunday of each month at 12:45 p.m. (*January will be the exception with Newcomers Lunch Bunch on January 18.*)

Newcomers to Second Unitarian can find a Lunch Bunch coupon for one free lunch for their entire family in their guest packets. Lunch Bunch is a great way to get to know some of our members and to ask questions about Unitarian Universalism and this church. Please check with the Welcome Desk staff for details.

### Attendance

Date	Adults in Worship	Adults in R.E.	Children in R.E.	Service Learning
11/30	67	8	8	—
12/7	64	7	10	—
12/14	71	—	—	16
12/21	84	Intergenerational		—

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha  
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## Staff

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Tom Peterson, Gary Emenitove

**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***