



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## *Second Thoughts*

October, 2015

**Join Us This Sunday!**

**Worship Services**

**10 a.m.**

**Program Council**  
(open to all members)  
**Sat., October 3**  
(see page 3)

**Town Hall Meeting**  
**Sun., October 18**  
(see page 3)

**Special Event for**  
**National Coming**  
**Out Day**  
**Sun., October 11**  
(see page 5)

**Fall Cleanup**  
**rescheduled to**  
**Sat., October 17**  
(see page 7)

October 4  
10:00

Rev. Marlin Lavanhar

**For Just Such a Time as This**

This video was presented by Rev. Lavanhar during the 2015 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly "Service of the Living Tradition." He is Senior Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, OK. We will complement with readings and hymns that support his message of radical acceptance of all people and all spiritual persuasions.

October 11  
10:00

Welcoming Congregation Committee & Rev. Frieda

**Everything's Possible**

In celebration of National Coming Out Day, young people from the LGBTQ community in Omaha will perform their poetry and music.

October 18  
10:00

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

**Finding Our Voice**

Finding our voice is a phrase from the Women's movement of the 70's. It is about speaking our truth to power. It is risky but what are the rewards?

October 25  
10:00

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

**Beginner's Mind**

Can we empty our minds of all preconceptions and expectations? Is there a possibility, even for a minute, of being without all of the chatter that occupies our mind much of the time? Without all of that, what is left?

*Second Thoughts* is a publication of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha.

Please send articles and submissions to [info@2Uomaha.org](mailto:info@2Uomaha.org).

Deadline is the fifteenth of each month.



## In the Interim

By Rev. Frieda Gillespie



There was a great story told by an astronaut on the Moth Radio Hour on KIOS last week. It was a long tale about a space walk he took at the space station to repair the Hubble Telescope. It was painstaking work and just like so many projects on earth, many things he tried didn't work or went wrong. He had only a rookie team member with him and only NASA in Houston to advise him via their communication system. He didn't want to reveal everything to NASA and so he didn't always say what was happening.

Several hours into the effort, he looked over at his rookie partner who gave him a big smile and an 'OK' sign. That was heartening, but he felt very much alone. More alone than any other experience he'd had. He received more instructions from Houston that finally helped him make the repair. When he was finished, Houston suggested that he let his partner go into the shuttle first and that he stay out to enjoy the view. The best part of the story was how he described what he saw: the beauty of the earth: so round and blue-green. And, just in his peripheral vision, the stars and the Milky Way galaxy and beyond; vast beyond comprehension. He realized that we are all on a ship speeding through space around the sun. In a very real way we are alone on our vast ship.

When he returned to the airfield after the mission, his family was waiting with hugs and stories about how they felt as he struggled on the space walk. They were very much with him. The engineers at NASA had their stories as well of how they stayed with him the whole way. Neighbors and friends and colleagues were listening on NASA TV and radio. They expressed much the same in the weeks that followed. His point was that he was never alone really, he just didn't know it.

Think of all of the people in your life that wish you well and want the best for you. I bet there are some that you don't even know about. People whose lives you've touched without knowing it and who think about you with gratitude and good wishes. There are many that you think about and wish good things for that may not know it. Think of all the people who have had similar struggles as you or successes. You are not alone. You are never really alone no matter what you might believe.

In faith,

*Rev. Frieda*



## Share the Plate for October: Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue/Delivery

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in October will go to Saving Grace, a perishable food rescue and delivery agency.

Their mission is to connect perishable food from local food purveyors to local nonprofits that feed our hungry, while raising awareness and educating the community on food waste and hunger.

Saving Grace picks up perishable food donations in refrigerated trucks from local restaurants, caterers, cafeterias, grocery stores, delis, and food distributors. They do not warehouse food, but deliver it the same day free of charge to agencies serving families in need such as pantries, missions, after-school programs, daycares, senior centers, and churches.

Visit [savinggracefoodrescue.org](http://savinggracefoodrescue.org).

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



## Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette, Chair, Board of Trustees



October is a month of change; leaves are changing, weather is changing and if you're affiliated with the federal government, the fiscal year is changing. This month is important for a number of reasons which indicate change in our congregation and in our worship.

During October, we will continue to work on defining our goals for Developmental Ministry. You will recall that last May we voted as a congregation to pursue a developmental — rather than settled — minister. A developmental minister is specialized to help churches achieve specific goals, and we are developing those goals now before embarking on the application and search process.

There was great participation and feedback at our August workshop on Church Identity which will enhance this process. We held two small group meetings in September of leaders, selected by the Board, to discuss church identity, review two goals formulated by the Board, and to discuss what other goals we might set for ourselves, keeping our strategic plan in mind.

There will be another small group meeting on October 3, which is our Program Council meeting. The Program Council in the past was a forum to exchange information between committee chairs and for some leadership training. We are opening this meeting up to all who are interested in attending and it will be held at the church on **Saturday, October 3, at 9:30 a.m.** Goals will again be discussed and additional ideas will be solicited, so if you have something to say, please come. The Board will parse this discussion for additional goals that are important to church leadership.

Then on **Sunday, October 18, following the service**, there will be a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the draft of all our goals for Developmental Ministry.

The Developmental Ministry Search Committee will be named this month, and they will take the goals as discussed on October 18, and along with other information on our congregation and its place in the greater Omaha community, will begin to put our application for Developmental Ministry together. Our Unitarian Universalist Association regional representative and advocate, Dori Davenport Thexton, will visit our congregation on **November 21 and 22** and will give us feedback on our application. Soon thereafter, our application is due to the UUA and early in 2016, our search committee will be screening the list of Developmental Ministers the UUA sends us. This will culminate with a contract between the Board and the minister for a 3 year term that is renewable for up to 7 years total. We would expect our new Developmental Minister to start work with us in late August or early September, 2016.

Another change anticipated in October is new audio-visual equipment that will allow screening of electronic content from a variety of sources during worship services, movie nights and other church gatherings. The short wall to the right of the pulpit and behind our chalice will be extended to the ceiling and a large screen will be mounted on it to provide a larger format for content from a projector suspended from the ceiling above the sanctuary. This will allow for greater variety and vibrancy in our worship service and a better viewing experience for other activities.

Change is a constant and survival is determined by how one manages that change. Because of all of you, our entire faith community, we intend to not only survive, but thrive!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Board members or send an email to [Board@2uomaha.org](mailto:Board@2uomaha.org).

*Craig*



# Treasurer's Report

By Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

## August Income and Expenses

Our income in August was not high enough to cover monthly expenses so we had to dip into the excess built up in July.

	August 2015	Year To Date
Income	\$17,318.68	\$43,678.65 (20% of budget)
Expense	20,249.01	38,134.80 (18% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$2,930.33	+\$5,543.85

Income came from Stewardship Campaign pledges (\$15,846.00); new pledges from current members (\$120.00); new pledges from new members (\$100.00); catch-up pledges for 2014-15 paid in 2015-16 (\$275); fundraising (\$13.31); other income (\$2.62); and offering (\$811.50).

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

## A Scary October Teen Movie

By Anita Meyer

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The October Teen Movie is being moved one week to **Sunday, October 25.***



For their October 25 movie get-together and discussion, the teens have chosen a scary movie, *The Sixth Sense*.

Young Cole Sear (Haley Joel Osment) is haunted by a dark secret: he is visited by ghosts. Cole is frightened by visitations from those with unresolved problems who appear from the shadows. He is too afraid to tell anyone about his anguish, except child psychologist Dr. Malcolm Crowe (Bruce Willis). As Dr. Crowe tries to uncover the truth about Cole's supernatural abilities, the consequences for client and therapist are a jolt that awakens them both to something unexplainable.



Our favorite movie reviewer Bob Fischbach, will lead a discussion after we view the movie. Please join us for some fall treats, drinks and pizza (freewill offering taken for pizza) at Second Unitarian, **4:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 25,** for a *frighteningly good time*.

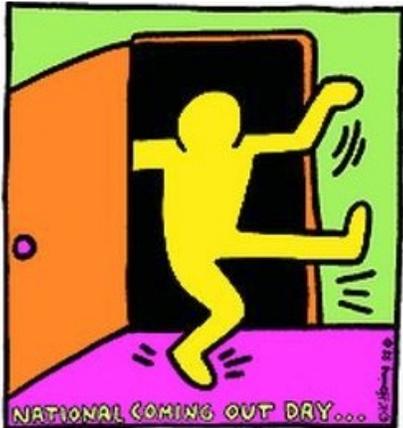


Make your donation go twice as far by supporting two of your favorite things with one check! Our church can bundle your KIOS Public Radio contribution with others to purchase ad spots for our church. Please send your contributions to the church or leave them in the Sunday offering plate. Donations will be accepted from October 1 through November 1, 2015. **Please make your check payable to Second Unitarian Church, with KIOS in the memo line.** Questions to Nancy Amsler. Thank you!



# LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee

By Tammy Hunter



## National Coming Out Day Is October 11

In recognition of National Coming Out Day, the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Welcoming Congregation Committee is sponsoring a PFLAG presentation and transgender panel discussion (PFLAG is formerly known as Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

We'll meet at Second Unitarian on **Sunday, October 11, beginning at 5 p.m.** to share a meal. The committee will provide soups and bread. If you're attending, please bring a salad or a dessert.

The PFLAG presentation will begin at **6 p.m.**, followed by a panel consisting of transgender youth and parents of transgender youth. *Please join us!*

## Retirees' Group

By Carol Johnson

You are invited to a presentation by Dr. Louisa Foster entitled "Mindful Self-Compassion" on **Tuesday, October 13, from 1 to 2 p.m.** at Second Unitarian Church.

Research has found that having a self-compassion practice acts as an effective buffer against anxiety and depression. Learning to soothe and comfort ourselves in times of distress increases our sense of gratitude and happiness, and enhances all of our relationships. Dr. Foster holds a PhD in Psychology and is a certified Drama Therapist (one of the few in the Midwest), as well as a member of 2U.

Anyone with an interest in this topic is welcome to attend! Second Unitarian Retirees meet monthly for socializing, fun, personal growth, and learning.

Find us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/2uomaha](https://www.facebook.com/2uomaha)

## FAIR TRADE COFFEES ARE BACK!



Gay DeWester will be selling Equal Exchange Fair Trade organic coffee during Fellowship hour one or two times a month. Whole bean and ground are available. Chocolate bars will be available in October. Other food items such as teas, nuts, and olive oil are available. Purchase quality products at a fair price. The sales are an additional source of revenue for the church. Additionally, these sales benefit farmers by providing fair prices, a voice in distribution/marketing decisions, and democratic management by workers.

Visit with Gay if you are interested in these products.



# Religious Growth & Learning

By Molly Kliment-Jenkins, Director of Religious Education



“October, baptize me with leaves! Swaddle me in corduroy and nurse me with split pea soup. October, tuck tiny candy bars in my pockets and carve my smile into a thousand pumpkins. O autumn! O teakettle! O grace!”

— Rainbow Rowell, *Attachments*

I love spring because of the fresh promise of a second chance in the garden. But I love fall because I am tired of trying to make that second... third, *whatever* chance work and I am ready to walk away. I hang the muddy gloves up, let the seeds wait for me in the shed, wash the tools down one last time and set the yard up to weather the winter. The gardener in me gets ready to hibernate.

In many ways, I do the same thing on our church calendar. By the time summer arrives, I am spent. I have had it with the curriculum. I am ready to walk away. Summer is a chance to try new things. Scatter some seeds and see what springs forth. By August, I furiously gather materials, set up lessons and square away volunteers. My second chance is September. Then October comes. I sit back and watch as we all fall into a rhythm of regularity. Things become predictable for a few months. It is a time of beauty. And grace.

I am thankful to those of you who are joining us again on our journey into the young mind. We do still have openings for those of you who would like to just tackle a couple Sundays total with the youth.

If you haven't had a chance to register your child for RE, extra forms are located on the cabinet at the bottom of the stairs as you head into the garden level. Look on the website or in last month's newsletter for descriptions of the curriculum offered this fall.

The classes have filled nicely and the kids are excited to be back. I've been the recipient of many hugs from kids I haven't seen for a few months. I am a lucky DRE.

With fistfuls of colorful leaves for you,

*Molly*

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## Upcoming OWL Classes

Religious Growth and Learning has been discussing timing of future OWL (Our Whole Lives) classes, **starting in January**. Since we would like to have ten consecutive weeks, we decided to offer a class for grades 1-2 and another class for grades 5-6. Children in kindergarten or 4th grade, don't fret: we will probably offer it again next year so you'll be able to take the class before you age out. We'd also like to offer a "parent chat group" during the class, so if folks want to just hang out and connect, they are welcome to.

This curriculum, with trained facilitators, teaches confidence when making decisions about our bodies, answers questions about development, and involves parents and families in discussions about values.

Please let [Molly Kliment-Jenkins](#) know if your child is interested and what grade level she or he falls into. We will place you on the mailing list with details about registration.





## Building and Grounds

By Clyde Anderson and Tom Rundquist, Co-Chairs

### Your Help Is Needed Maintaining Our Church!

**Please note date change.** Because of a conflict with the Program Council meeting October 3, our Fall Church Cleanup has been rescheduled for **Saturday, October 17, from 8 a.m. to noon.**

There are a lot of tasks both indoors and in the church yard.

Our experienced volunteers will assist novices, so don't worry about lacking skills. However, please wear suitable shoes (no sandals or flip-flops, please) and bring work gloves. Wear work clothes appropriate for the weather (for working outdoors) and working conditions. Feel free to bring tools if you wish, but the Building & Grounds Committee members will arrange to have a supply of tools and materials available.

As always, we'll have refreshments available in the foyer.

Please note the event on your calendar, and we hope many of you can help, even for just a few hours. For more information, contact Clyde Anderson or Tom Rundquist.

## Women's Alliance

By Kathi Oliver

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend the Women's Alliance gathering at First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney, on **Monday, October 12, with socializing and beverages starting at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7.**

The program will be presented by Anne Wilder Rodriguez and special guests. They will be giving instruction on self-defense for women of any age and strength.

We ask for \$15 which goes to the cost of dinner, the Merritt Education Fund, the Partner Church scholarship, and various activities at First Unitarian. If this will be your first time attending a WA get-together, please be our guest.

Dinner for October will be Greek vegetables with chicken breasts (meat) or falafel (veggie).

RSVP by contacting Kathi Oliver at [wa@firstuomaha.org](mailto:wa@firstuomaha.org) by October 8. Please include which meal you prefer.

### 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!



# Omaha Together One Community (OTOC)

By Vicki Pratt, Social Justice

## OTOC Actions and Issues

Second Unitarian is an active member of the local congregation-based community organization OTOC (Omaha Together One Community). Issues come from Listening Campaigns in member congregations. If there's enough interest to move forward, leaders form an Action Team. Here's a brief overview of current Action Teams.

**Environmental Sustainability** advocates for state regulation of carbon dioxide emissions, sustainable food production, public transportation, Pope Francis's Encyclical, and OPPD's plan to generate 33% of their electricity from sustainable sources and to shut down coal-burning units at the North Omaha plant.

About 6,000 Nebraskans cannot afford health insurance but do not qualify for financial assistance from the Affordable Care Act. Why? Nebraska has not expanded Medicaid. **Medicaid Reform's** purpose is to generate bipartisan support to fill this coverage gap.

The goal of **Mental Health** is to improve the availability and quality of behavioral health care in Metro Omaha and alleviate long waits in emergency rooms, discharge before stabilization, unaffordable medications, and the stigma of mental illness.

**Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization** focuses on City response to housing code violations and training housing inspectors, funding for demolition of condemned buildings, redevelopment through the Omaha Municipal Land Bank, and setting up a Vacant Property Registration system.

**Immigration** educates elected officials about the need for just and comprehensive immigration reform.



## OTOC Listening Sessions

It's time for OTOC to find out if these Action Teams are still viable by identifying issues that affect you and your family, by holding Listening Sessions. We will have two Listening Sessions at Second Unitarian. Come share your concerns about our neighborhoods, city, county, and state.

The first will be **Tuesday, October 13, at 11:30 a.m. before the Retirees' Group**. Another will be held after service on **Sunday, November 1**. Both will offer a light lunch. Be watching your weekly enews to register for these Listening Sessions.

If you are not able to attend the Listening Sessions at 2U, other options are Wednesday, October 7 or Thursday, October 15, both at 6:30 p.m. at Urban Abbey, 10<sup>th</sup> and Jackson in the Old Market.

## Coffee and Learning at Urban Abbey

Each month Urban Abbey, 10<sup>th</sup> & Jackson in the Old Market, donates a percentage of counter sales and packaged coffee sales to a like-minded community partner. October it's OTOC! Stop for a treat, plan a get-together with friends, schedule a Second Unitarian committee meeting, or attend an OTOC Issues Café.

## Issues Café Sessions at Urban Abbey, 10<sup>th</sup> and Jackson

- **Thursday, October 8, 7 p.m.:** "Ending Childhood Hunger in Omaha by breaking down silos between existing resources" by Craig Howell, Director of Hunger Collaborative and Rachel Olive, Director for Hunger Free Heartland
- **Wednesday, October 21, 7 p.m.:** "Challenges and strategies to finally achieve Medicaid Reform in Nebraska" by Mark Intermill, Nebraska AARP Advocacy Director
- **Thursday, October 29, 7 p.m.:** "Nine gaps identified by the Assessment of Adult Behavioral Health Care in the Omaha region" by Christine Johnson, Behavioral Health Foundation



# Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Chair, Membership

## Pathways to Membership Class on November 7

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, November 7, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.**

After a delicious 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.

To reserve a seat, please contact Kathy Bell at [membership@2uomaha.org](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org) by Sunday, November 1, and also indicate if you will need childcare.

## Hospitality Teams Coming Soon

You will hear a lot about Hospitality Teams over the next few months, a joint effort by the Membership and Fellowship Committees. In a nutshell, Hospitality Teams help create a welcoming experience for members and guests on Sunday mornings. We will begin piloting four teams in November.

- **Team Activities:** Anything and everything you can think of to help members and guests feel welcomed. Give people a hearty welcome as you hand out the Order of Service. Help newcomers get oriented. Take new families downstairs to help them find the right classrooms. Prepare coffee and treats. Chat with newcomers during coffee hour. Clean up after coffee.
- **Team Details:** Nine teams. Eight persons per team. A team serves one Sunday every other month (six times per year). Wow! That is 72 people all working to make Second Unitarian the most welcoming church in Omaha!

Want to get in on the ground floor by joining one of the pilot teams? Contact Kathy Bell at [membership@2uomaha.org](mailto:membership@2uomaha.org)

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Adults in Worship
8/30	56
9/6	58
9/13	92
9/20	61

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 Nancy Amsler, Richard Koelling, Betty Segell,  
 Tom Peterson, Kathie Haskins, Gary Emenitove

**Second Unitarian Church**

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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*