



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.

**Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 5th
11:30 AM**

Business cannot proceed
without 35% of our eligible
voters present!

RSVP to
board@2uomaha.org

UPCOMING SERVICES

June 5

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Worlds Apart

Two stories of how people from different worlds changed each others' lives.

June 12

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

Letting Go

It's almost time to say goodbye, and perhaps we can do that without terrible sadness but with joy for our time together.

June 19

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

21st Century Fathers

We celebrate the ways men have evolved into dads who are present and engaged with their children.

June 26

Music & Worship

2nd Annual Hymn Sing

Instead of a sermon, we will take requests from the congregation and Olga, our pianist that day, will play away! Church members are encouraged to send requests in advance by email: music-worship@2uomaha.org.



FRIEDA'S FAREWELL FIESTA

Saturday, June 11th

6:30pm - 8pm

Join us for a potluck celebration honoring Rev. Frieda. All are invited {child care will be provided}. Beverages and cake will be provided. RSVP by June 6th to Greg at rsvp@2uomaha.org. Please bring an entrée, salad or side dish to serve 10 persons.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER



The massive thunderstorm that passed through Omaha this week was kind of thrilling: loud and brilliant in its displays of lightning. It left some damage to trees and plants on the ground, especially where there was hail. Could we say that it's worth it to have the incredibly fresh air and fragrances in the storm's aftermath? I'm not one to talk since I didn't have to clean any debris up, but I love how pristine my car is after a hard rain and how the trees and plants seem to take on new aliveness. It's easy to take that into ourselves and feel new as well. The forces of nature, outside our control, whether a tornado, a hurricane, a thunderstorm, anything that powerful gives me a strange uplift. Perhaps because it is out of my control and I can fall back as Mary Chapin Carpenter

wrote, "in the arms of the great wide open". You've all done great work this church year but the results seem effortless. And of course, they weren't! But the work was done with the "right" attitude as evidenced by the blessings of new ideas and excitement for the future. I'm so glad to be a part of it. Maybe this is what's meant by "June is busting out all over!" May your spirits be lifted, your wounds healed, and a fresh start be given by the forces that really control the world.

In Faith,

Frieda

Share the Plate June 2016 *The Refugee Empowerment Center*

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in June will go to **The Refugee Empowerment Center**. The goal of the Refugee Empowerment Center is to resettle and empower refugees to become self-sufficient through direct services and educational programs. These programs include English language learning, driver's education training, and a Job Club.



Refugee
Empowerment
Center

To find out more about Refugee Empowerment Center visit their website: <http://sscaomaha.info/>

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

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Planks and Slivers from the Board

By Craig Piquette

This is the last newsletter piece for the church year and the end of my role as president or chair of the board of trustees. Please indulge me as I review where we were as a congregation and how far we have come in the two years that I have served in this role.

In June 2014, Rev. McNeill had just resigned as our minister, and the interim ministerial search team had begun their work to find a new interim minister. There was a lot of soul-searching and questions about why we were back in search so soon after calling a new settled minister; there were also differences of opinion about whether this said something about us as a congregation. What we found out is that we are a resilient congregation, one that is strong and well connected to each other.

By the start of the 2014-15 fiscal year, Rev. Frieda Gillespie was our new interim minister and the excitement was building for her start that fall. Social Justice was reimagined and RGL had planned a new curriculum for our children. In October, we had our facilitated start-up meeting to help us work out our new relationship with our interim minister. We reviewed the strategic plan of the church and realized we needed to make it more accessible. We explored the meaning of shared ministry and the importance of commitment to Second Unitarian. We encouraged all who were a part of our community to share their story but in turn would listen deeply to the stories of others. Rev. Frieda was with us every step of the way and provided counsel and guidance. Coincident with a successful pledge drive we began to explore developmental ministry as an alternative to settled ministry. At the annual meeting in 2015, the congregation voted to enter into developmental ministry and set goals that we wanted to accomplish as an outcome of that ministry.

Over the past year, the congregation has been working to develop goals for the future and defining its identity as a religious organization. Shared ministry has begun in earnest with new Hospitality Teams, a Leadership Course, new Adult Education offerings and enhancements to the worship service led by Rev. Gillespie and the worship associates. Under the leadership of Pat Caffrey, the Program Council has undergone a transformation that will strengthen the bonds between the various volunteer teams and committees and help the organization become more responsive to the needs of our members. The developmental minister search team has done an outstanding job and we are finalizing paperwork to bring in our new developmental minister, Cyndi Simpson! The congregation has accomplished a great deal over the past two years, and I am especially grateful to Rev. Frieda Gillespie for all that she has done for us. It will be sad to see her move on to her next post, hopefully closer to her wonderful family, and we will all have a chance to send our best wishes at our Frieda Fiesta on June 11th. Please come. Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the board who have served with me over the past three years and I know that the congregation will be in good hands with the new board to be seated in July.

Craig

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Summer is finally here! I love the different focus that summer takes on for me... the pace isn't exactly relaxed, but it is less intense. I have tons of stuff to do, but I find time to stop and smell the roses. Something I tend not to do during the winter months.



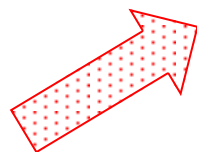
One "experiment" I am trying out this summer is to use an online service to coordinate volunteers for Sundays. The service, called VolunteerSpot, has been easy for me personally. (See page 9.) To use to sign up to assist in my daughter's classroom. I thought I'd try it out here and see if it helps volunteers and me figure out the complex schedules of summer! We are still working out the worship schedule so there may be Sundays that you sign up for that we may change into a multigenerational... but I will let you know if that happens. Please check it out and join us for one of our summer projects.

I wanted to thank all of you who came to the May Day service. We were rained out of the parking lot May Pole Dance, but our inside May Pole proved to be just... well, perhaps even more entertaining than I could have anticipated. I should have known better than to ask UUs to follow directions!

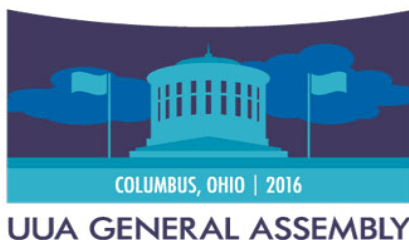
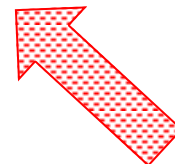
I'd also like to thank my helpers down in RE. This summer, Sabrina Short will be assisting me with some of the SLP curriculum development as well as prepping for the fall. Elise Brazeal-Daganaar is helping set up our lessons and preparing the rooms for fall classes. It's wonderful to have their help!



Finally, we are looking for a couple new members to the RGL Council. If you are interested, please contact me!



Molly



JUNE 22 - JUNE 26

HEARTLAND: WHERE FAITHS CONNECT

The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives. General Assembly 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future for all.

[GA Registration](#) and the [GA Housing Reservation System](#) open now.

Developmental Ministry Search

The search is over!

The Reverend Cynthia Simpson



We are pleased to introduce our Developmental Minister, who will be with us starting in mid-August. (The Board and Cyndi have agreed to the basics of the contract, details are underway. In other words, the Developmental Ministry Search Committee hasn't popped the champagne yet!) Both the Developmental Search Committee and Rev. Simpson are very excited for her ministry with Second Unitarian.

Cyndi is coming from Vermont, where she was an interim minister. She is excited to be moving to Omaha and is very excited about Second Unitarian and our goals. In fact, Cyndi said she is passionate

about "the creation of a religious community that actively and deeply and joyously lives, teaches, and shares Unitarian Universalism within and beyond its walls, a religious community devoted to the covenant of our Seven Principles."

Keep an eye out for more updates on our new minister in the Order of Service, weekly e-news, our website and July and August newsletters.

Membership Journeys

By Kathy Bell, Membership Committee Chair

We enjoyed celebrating this year's new and resumed members during the May 15th worship service. New members included Jan Afrank, Bob Fischbach, Jeff Jenkins, and Charles Woram. Those resuming their membership included Catherine Boscardin and Russ Alberts & Ruthann Irby. I hope you will take a moment to welcome them and get to know them better.

I am also pleased to announce that Donna Dudley will become the new chairwoman of the Membership Committee starting in August. Phil Dudley will serve as vice chair. It has been a pleasure serving as chair for the past two years, and I look forward to the direction and new energy that Donna and Phil will bring.

End of Year Giving Reminder

The FunDraising Team

Instead of an auction we tried some new fundraising activities this Spring.

- **E-Bingo** - Many thanks to everyone who bought a bingo card. We sold 70 cards and collected \$350. \$262.50 will go to the general operating fund of the church. The winner walked away with \$87.50. Lynn Alsman emailed a bingo number each evening beginning May 1st. On the 16th day Cheri Cody was the first to score a bingo and won the prize. The game generated a lot of interesting emails between the participants!
- 2U was proud to be a part of **OmahaGives on May 25th**. Members and friends were encouraged to donate to Second Unitarian Church during this annual e-fundraising event! Thanks to our many generous donors, the Church received over \$6,000! Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

by Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

In April our expenses were higher than our income but we covered the month's shortage from the year-to-date surplus.

	April 2016	Year To Date
Income	\$13,665.69	\$172,078.89 (79% of budget)
Expense	14,471.75	168,842.05 (78% of budget)
Net Over/Short	-\$806.06	+\$3,236.84

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$12,475.00); New Pledges from Current Members (\$320.00); Other Income (\$142.13); and Offering (\$717.41).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$4,488.90); Minister's Compensation (\$6,709.31); Administrative Expenses (\$168.69); General Expenses (\$2,703.47); and Committee Expenses (\$401.38).

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact Vicki at: treasurer@2uomaha.org



*Awaken the spirit of Pagans,
Nature & Earth Centered
Unitarian Universalists as we
return to roots of our
inspiration.*



Convocation 2016

Awakening Our Tribe

at First Church
Unitarian Universalist
in Historic Salem, MA
August 26-28, 2016

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is holding "Awakening Our Tribe" the 2016 convocation at First UU in historic Salem, MA. Check out cuups.org for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BUILDING & GROUNDS

Church Spring Cleanup – Thanks to the Volunteers!

By Clyde Anderson, Building & Grounds Committee

Despite rain showers for our April 30th Work Day, the 13 volunteers who turned out got a lot of work done inside the church, including finishing the back side of the new projection wall in the sanctuary, replacing three light fixtures in the RE areas downstairs, almost filling the dumpster with junk from the storeroom, cleaning the windows, chairs and much more. To get the outside tasks done, we scheduled a Yard Work Day for May 7th, and 9 volunteers showed up to help and were greeted with sunny skies!

Thanks to all our volunteers, many who worked both Saturdays: Rick & Kathy Bell, Jay Haskins, Dave Jenkins, David Johnson, Carla/Bill Kuhn, Larry Kurtz, Roger Nicolaisen, Phil Phillips, Craig Piquette, Tom & Shirley Rundquist, Tom Peterson, and Nancy Vander Sluis.

Our church building and property need constant attention, so watch for announcements about future volunteer opportunities.

Tornado season is upon us again!

What if a severe storm with a possible tornado approaches our area during Sunday church service? Do you know our tornado evacuation plan? The safest area of the building is in the basement. Go down either north or south stairway. Proceed to the south classrooms area (under the foyer and First Hour areas) and stay away from the east-facing windows because the strong winds could blow debris through them. The windows on the west side are less dangerous because they are protected by window wells. The rest rooms, storeroom beyond the women's rest room and kitchen are also safe areas. Please stay clear of the RE Worship Area and Office which have large east-facing windows. Tornado shelter signs are posted as a reminder.

How do we tell a severe storm is close? There is a tornado siren about two blocks away, and we have a weather radio in the kitchen that will sound a loud alarm whenever the National Weather Service issues a weather warning for Douglas County.

PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Church policy states: *Respect for the privacy of members, friends, and visitors is a primary consideration. When newsletter submissions contain personal information (phone number, street address, email address, etc.), it is the author's responsibility to get the subject's permission to publish this information.* Since many of our communications are transmitted electronically and information therein may more easily be re-transmitted, it's essential that any personal information be approved for inclusion.

In general, it's preferable to omit personal information, but in those cases where it's necessary (such as a location for an offsite meeting), those who submit articles should ask for permission to publish the personal information. An alternative is "Please call or email the church office for contact information." Contact the Office Administrator for more information. **Regarding published photographs:** If you do not want your photo published (including in the newsletter or on the website), please inform the Office Administrator in writing. Thanks!

Retirees' Group

Please join Retirees' Group **Tuesday, June 14th at 1:00** for a one hour guided tour of the Holland Performing Arts Center. The Holland Center is located at 1200 Douglas Street and our group will gather inside the building's front and center door facing Douglas Street. There is a parking garage behind the Holland Center. All other parking is on-street metered parking. Most of the meters close to the Holland Center are 2-hour meters. Because parking can be difficult, we can meet at 12:30 to carpool from the church parking lot. Please indicate to Retirees@2Uomaha or Carol Johnson if you would like to ride and/or if you are willing to drive passengers to the Center.

PS Anyone can join us. Retirees' Group meets monthly for socialization, fun, learning and personal growth. Everyone is welcome!

Lazy Days of Summer

We would never accuse our Second Unitarian teens of being lazy, but they are taking the summer off from Movie Night. With lots of activities and trips over the summer, we are taking a break June and July off and will reconvene in August. All interested seventh through twelfth graders, join us in August to watch Zootopia and through the school year of 2016- 2017 for other great movies, discussion and pizza one Sunday night a month.

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group has changed its meeting date to the third Wednesday of the month. We will meet at 8:00 PM in the sanctuary following the choir rehearsal. As always, at our meetings we have both a meditation-related discussion and an actual meditation. No previous meditation experience is necessary, and we love "drop-in" visitors or anyone curious about meditation.

Upcoming meeting: June 15

2U 2nd Annual Hymn Sing

By Julie Kirn

The Music and Worship committee is having the 2U 2nd annual hymn sing on Sunday, June 26th. Instead of a sermon, we will take requests from the congregation and Olga Conklin, our pianist that day, will play away! Church members are encouraged to send requests in advance to music-worship.org.



Looking for RE Volunteers

I'm trying out VolunteerSpot to organize our upcoming Sunday summer session lessons and projects in the garden level. It's easy. Pick the Sundays you are interested in and able to help. If you have to switch because of a conflict, you can do it on VolunteerSpot. If you are going to be absent due to illness or sudden change of plans on Saturday, please let me know so I can be sure we have enough folks present on Sunday. I will send out the description of the work plan. The program will remind you in advance of your upcoming commitment. We will have some changes to the schedule once we figure out which Sundays are multigenerational so please be patient as there will be some changes as we progress.

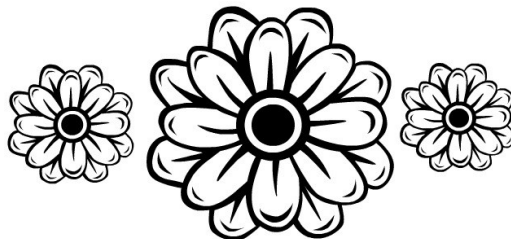
Here's how it works in three easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our sign-up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/dbCtpy>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

From the Caring Committee

During Fellowship, we will have blank cards, stamps, and pens for you to send notes to members who are ill or can no longer attend church. A church directory is available, and we will mail the cards for you! A member of the Caring Committee can assist you. We hope that this will help further our connections. If you have a joy or sorrow that you wish the Committee to know about, please contact Kathie at caring@2uomaha.org.



Share Your Story

A great way to share your story is to display your artwork on the Second Showing Wall. Artwork can be paintings, photographs, or needlework; virtually anything that can be displayed on the table. If you're interested, and we hope you are, contact Dodie Robison or Pam Curtiss-Smith.

HEARTLAND PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL, JUNE 25

Please join us for the annual Heartland Pride Parade and Festival, taking place Saturday, June 25. The theme this year is Transforming the Heartland. Through our involvement, we affirm our support for LGBTQ individuals to be fully themselves, as well as our commitment to work for equal rights for all. We'll be joined by First Unitarian Church in both the parade and the festival. The following events will take place during the weekend:

- **Friday, June 24 - Youth Pride Celebration and Dance at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village, 6-10 pm.** This is a great night for the youth to celebrate their diversity in a safe setting. The event is geared toward those 13-23 years of age.


- **Saturday, June 25**

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

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



For more information, contact Tammy at oats@2uomaha.org.



Date	Worship Attendance
5/1	47
5/8	68
5/15	66
5/22	83

Our Omaha Gives!
Fundraiser was a success!
During the 24 hour
challenge we earned
\$5,052.14 plus a \$1,000
bonus! That is over \$6000!!



And as one member said the morning after - *We didn't have to vacuum the church after this fundraiser!*

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE THAT SUPPORTED 2U!

Gay A.
Janice A.
Kathy A.
Nancy A.
Clyde A.
Anonymous
Sue A.
Denny B.
Lisa B.
Pat C.
Cheri C.
Ruth C.

Pam C.
Todd D.
JoAnne D.
Judy E.
Ruth F.
Louisa F.
Neva C.
Tammy H.
Carol J.
Molly K.
John K.
Larry K.

Anita M.
Carolyn M.
Pam M.
Tom P.
Craig P.
Vicki P.
Becki S.
Jaime S.
Ronda S.
Jenni W.
Rachel Y.

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