



Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Second Thoughts

Join Us This Sunday!

Worship Services

10 a.m.

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 19th

It has been a long-standing tradition here at Second Unitarian to share a Thanksgiving meal the weekend before Thanksgiving Day.

This year our Thanksgiving dinner will be on **Saturday, November 19, at 6 p.m.** Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert that can serve 10-12 people. Fellowship will provide turkey and beverages. Donation is \$5 per adult or \$12 per family. This is a wonderful feast that you won't want to miss! If you can help with setup, please come at 5. Please contact Judy Eller or Lynn Alsman if you have questions.



UPCOMING SERVICES

November 6th

The Language of Ageism

Does your language and attitude affect the way you interact with others? Come and find out on Sunday.

November 13th

How We Win or Lose

Rev. Cyndi Simpson

On this Sunday, we will be in the post-election period. Perhaps after this wild and woolly election, that will be a relief! Regardless of the election's outcome at every level, let us reflect as Unitarian Universalists on what 'winning' or 'losing' can mean for us as people of faith and as citizens.

November 20th

Thanksgiving

Rev. Cyndi Simpson

Today, we will celebrate Thanksgiving together through a sharing of a bread communion. Everyone is asked to bring a type of bread to share that comes from your own cultural or family tradition (one to three servings).

November 27th

Gratitude

Reverend Cyndi Simpson

What does Gratitude mean and how we can, as a spiritual practice, develop a greater sense of gratitude.

See Page seven for more details on the November services.

Living Developmentally

Dear Friends,

I've been here with you at the Second Unitarian Church of Omaha for just over two months and it has been an exciting and challenging time! Most of my efforts have been in listening and learning – a process that will continue throughout my time with you. As well, I have had to engage significantly with the ministerial tasks of ministry and pastoral care. These are the two tasks of ministry for which I have the greatest ongoing responsibility. The Board of Trustees and I are also just beginning our work together around developmental ministry.

For this November newsletter, I thought I would write about ministry and specifically, the developmental ministry that I have contracted with the Board of Trustees to provide.

My being here as a Developmental Minister is a first for 2UOmaha. You have had a variety of settled and interim ministers since the year 2000. You went through a process of discernment with staff from the Mid-America Region and amongst yourselves and decided that developmental ministry, with its focus on specific goals, seemed like the best approach. In your application, you referred to yourselves as having reached a region of “stuckness,” and having a ministry focused on clear goals seemed a way to get the church’s culture beyond the stuckness.

Right now, I have a three-year contract and can stay as long as five years. My main task as a developmental minister is to mentor and coach congregational leadership in identifying and achieving key congregational goals. In your application, the goals mentioned are about worship, welcoming, identity and structure. The Board of Trustees and I are just starting to work together to achieve a shared understanding and a shared ownership of these goals. That understanding and ownership ultimately will need to be shared by all of you!

And, it is also important that we share trust together and that we live together in respect, transparency and lovingkindness. The stronger and more complex the webs of relationship are among all of us, the easier is the trust and love. If we do not love each other in all that we do, then nothing else matters much. We can and will disagree, but that can happen in a context of mutual love and respect. Speaking and acting from a place of “Us” and “Them,” however and whomever we categorize in this way, is never a viable approach.

I am here for you as your minister for pastoral care and support. I am also here to support your learning and exploration of Unitarian Universalism and your own spiritual journey. I am available every day of the week except Wednesday and Friday.

If you have issues or concerns related to me, please give me the courtesy and respect of speaking directly to me about them. If you have questions about my contract, my purpose, my focus, please be in touch – it’s all open. There are no mysteries to be held about my presence here.

I am excited about the limitless possibilities for this church community – to be a powerful and effective religious community in Omaha! To be a Beloved Community of Unitarian Universalism for our members and those with whom we partner. Let’s make it happen!

Developing right with you,

Cyndi

Ahh... the season of Thanksgiving, of gratitude!

W. J. Cameron said it well, "Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action." This is a good time to pause and reflect for all that we are grateful for as Second Unitarian Church and then to act on those reflections. In this season of gratitude, I was reminded of the Stewardship Moment by Ed Bok earlier this year. "Try taking a deep breath and holding it. Sorry, you aren't allowed to exhale, just keep inhaling. You quickly realize the futility of that exercise. True gratitude yearns for a way to be expressed and released. President John F. Kennedy observed that "as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It's the same way here at Second Unitarian Church. We gather... we receive... and we rejoice... but we must also reciprocate... and we must do so out of a motivation of gratitude."

I am grateful for all of you!! I am also grateful that Rev. Cyndi has joined us here at Second Unitarian church as our Developmental Minister. She has only been here a few short weeks, however, we are already witnessing her energy and enthusiasm in many ways.

The Board Retreat was a great opportunity to begin to delve deeper into our developmental ministry goals and what they mean to us so that we can gain clarity, a common understanding and ownership of them. As another first step we will be having a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 13th after our Sunday Service. Please join us! Lunch will be served and child care available. RSVP to Board@2Uomaha.org. It will certainly be more powerful if you can attend and be part of this meaningful conversation and to celebrate our accomplishments!

The Board and the Nominations / Leadership Development Committee have met to discuss strategies to further leader strength at Second Unitarian Church. We look forward to implementing some of these strategies and will keep you posted.

The workshops on our Developmental Ministry goals with Dori Davenport Thexton, Congregational Life Consultant-MidAmerica Region, have been rescheduled to the weekend of March 18 -19, 2017. As the time gets closer we will be able to provide more details. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Special Notes of Thanks and Appreciation – Did you know? I am sorry that I won't have space to mention everyone, but here are a few.....

- The Building & Grounds Committee, including Rick, Tom R., Clyde and others, are most resourceful and creative! We all know that our parking lot is in dire need of repair, both short term and long term. For the short term, they are using a new Aquaphalt asphalt patch material which appears to be holding up very well. They plan to finish the repairs using this product and then evaluate long term repairs at a later date.
- Thank you to Pete Miller and the rest of the Library Committee who raised \$336.00 from the Annual Book Sale.
- Second Unitarian was well represented at both OTOC Accountability Sessions. We were honored that Rev. Cyndi did closing words at the Oct. 17th event. By the time you read this elections will be over but social justice-making continues.
- Circle Suppers are happening! What a great way to get connected and enjoy great food at the same time!

Have comments, suggestions, or ideas, please feel free to send them to Board@2uomaha.org.

Thank you!



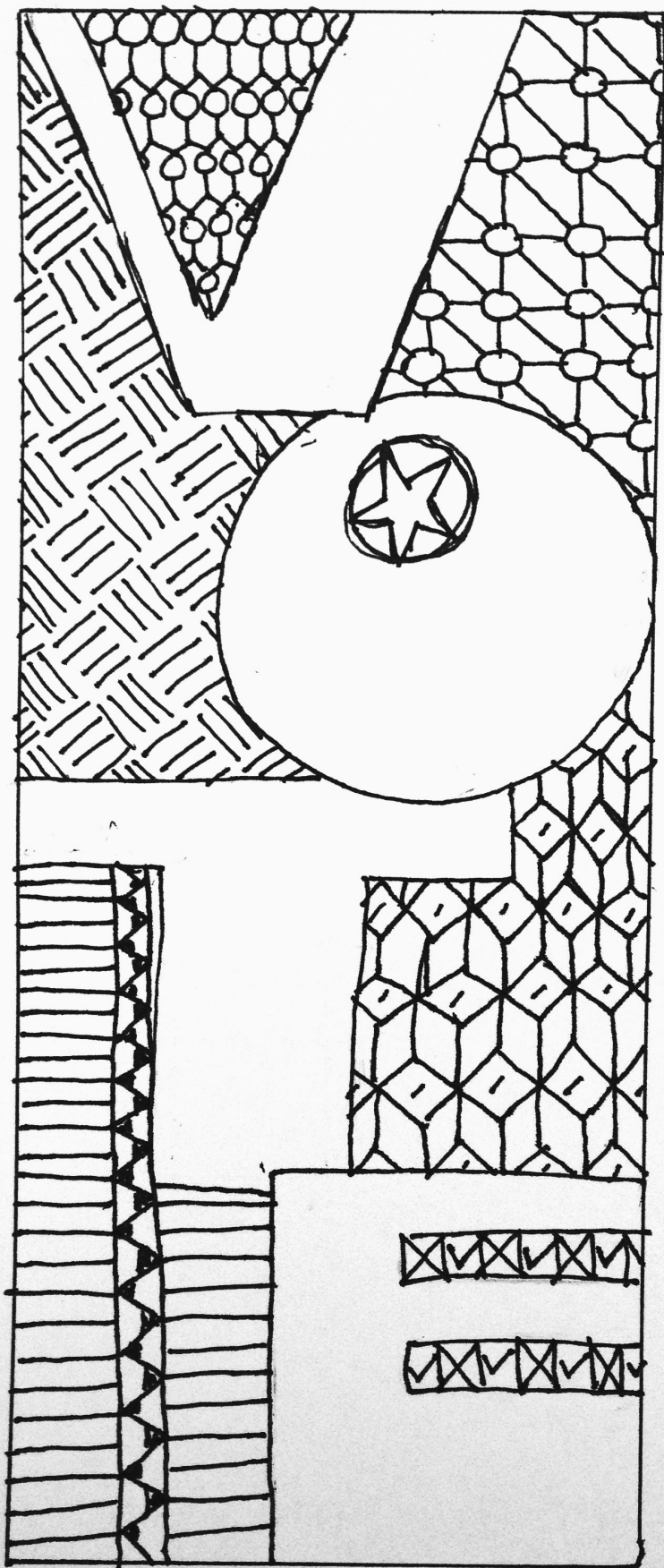
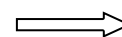
“5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;”

Our fifth principle calls us to not only use the democratic process within our congregations, but to also bring it forth into society at large. November is the month of voting in the United States and, undoubtedly, it has been a part of the national dialogue for months (perhaps, one could argue, years) now.

In my sermon on prayer a few months ago, I introduced you to zentangles as a spiritual practice. I have continued to use them myself: it helps me keep an emotional distance from some of the rhetoric. And, if you're not into creating, there is coloring. As you watch the election results roll in for city, county, state and nation, here's a zentangle you can feel free to color in. It can help you stay centered and focused on the process while we listen to the pundits and their analyses! Can you find the star and stripes? Do you see the bubbles ready to be colored in? Or the votes already made and the pencils used to make those votes? Perhaps you can pick out the ballot box and the voters lined up to exercise their right to vote.

The first Sunday of November will feature a fascinating discussion on Ageism. Since we all continue to grow, learn and age, this particular service will be relevant to all of us. As the individual who coordinates lifespan exploration, I believe this is a great opportunity to join the generations in a rich conversation.

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Announcements

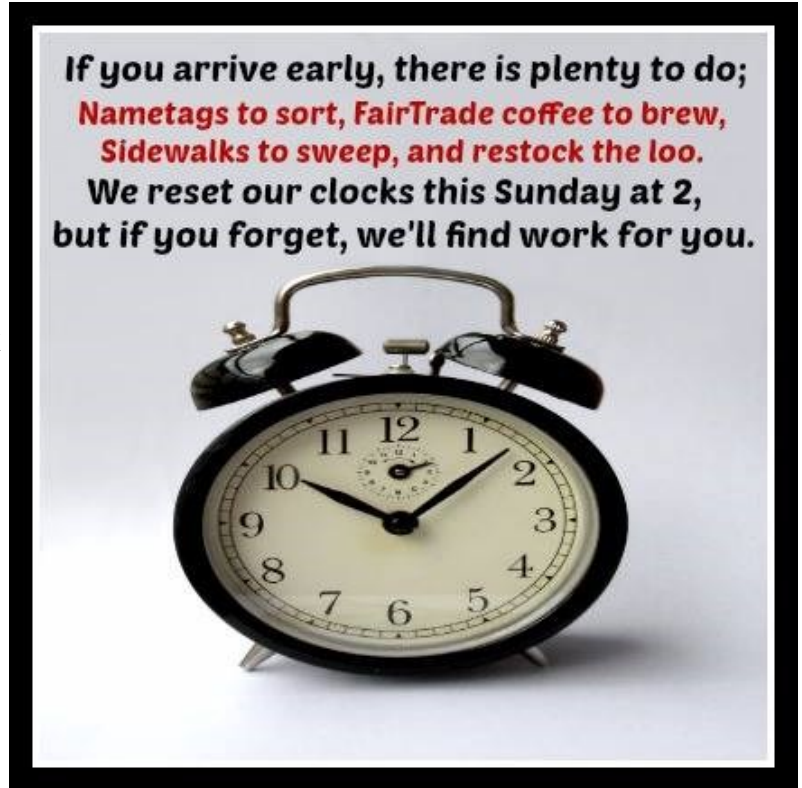
From the Office Administrator

Newsletter Submission Dates in November and December. Due to the upcoming holidays, submission deadlines for the newsletter will vary slightly. The deadline in November will be November 22nd and in December will be December 21. So items will need to reach the Office Administrator no later than those dates.

To Committee Chairs: Please check your committee mailbox on a regular basis. If your file is too full and you don't know where to put things, please let me know and we can figure something out. If your mailbox is too full, you will not be able to find things, or know when something new is put into it.

Large Print Orders of Service and Hymns. Did you know that we now have large print orders of service and hymns? You can pick yours up at the Welcome Desk.

And last, but not least! **Daylight Savings Time Ends this Sunday at 2 a.m.** Please remember to set your clocks backward one hour before you go to bed.



(Religious Education continued)

Finally, in October, I had the opportunity to fill in for one of the facilitators in the 8-9th Grade OWL classes. The class has 8 youth from both congregations. It was only the third session and I am impressed by how comfortable they are with each other and willing to open up. For those of you who do not have a youth in the OWL class, here's a note we received from one of the youth to give you an idea of what it's like:

“Can you keep OWL fun? Tonight was fun and I enjoyed it more than normal health class.”

Oh, yes. It will stay fun! And, hopefully, we all find some fun now and then in our shared learning. If you ever have any ideas for improving lifespan learning, want to extend kudos to a class leader, or just want to get involved to help you grow on your own path, contact me: I appreciate your thoughts and comments, and will pass them on!

Joining you on our shared spiritual journey-
Molly Kliment-Jenkins, DRE

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

by Vicki Pratt, Treasurer

In September we brought in more than we spent.

	September 2016	Year to Date
Income	\$17,326.22	\$65,452.52 (30% of budget)
Expense	14,973.43	49,531.90 (23% of budget)
Net Over/Short	+\$2,352.79	+\$15,920.62

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$15,327.51); New Pledges from Current Members (\$30.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$200.00); First Week of Book Sale Fundraising (\$336.00); Other Income (\$2.71); Offering (\$680.00).

We also transferred \$750.00 from Reserves as directed by the Board and increased the Operating budget by the same amount. This money is to cover Developmental Ministry consulting cost as contracted with the MidAmerica Region. The transfer and associated expense increases the 2016-17 Operating Budget to \$215,253.

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,296.78); Minister's Compensation (\$6,246.35); Administrative Expenses (\$61.89); General Expenses (\$2,600.13); and Committee Expenses (\$768.28).

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



ENDOWMENT FUND HITS \$100,000

It was a long time in the making but our endowment fund has surpassed the \$100,000 mark. The bulk of the fund is in Vanguard funds, but recently the committee opened an account with the UUA Common Endowment Fund and transferred the proceeds from an annuity, sale of stock, and new memorial gifts to the UUA fund – about \$18,000. We feel good knowing that we are growing our money alongside UUs across the country.

The endowment fund was created to enhance the mission of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha and to promote Unitarian Universalist Principles in the community. No distributions from the fund can be made until it surpasses \$250,000. This year Endowment Committee members will be working on some special events to increase the value of the fund in new ways and with any luck, more quickly! There will continue to be ways to include Second U in your estate planning, but you can also support the fund with small donations at any time. Watch for more information on this option.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NOTES

November's Worship theme is **Gratitude**. Gratitude certainly is the quality of being thankful. More dynamically, it is also the readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. That is, when we are the receivers of kindness in any way, gratitude is also about being ready to return that kindness, as well as appreciate it. Gratitude is therefore lived as well as felt.

On November 6, our youth will be developing and presenting the worship service. I hope that you will go out of your way to be present for them and to receive their worship with gratitude.

On November 13, our worship will address the election, focusing on winning and losing. I don't know about you, but I will be very grateful once this election is over! It has been one of the more challenging elections in my lifetime, for many reasons.

We will celebrate Thanksgiving together in worship on November 20 with a bread communion. And finally, on November 27, I will focus specifically on 'gratitude' itself – what it means and how we can, as a spiritual practice, develop a greater sense of gratitude.

Also on November 27, I will debut a revised basic Order of Service. The arc of the service will be the same; it will be organized by the warmth of love, the light of truth and energy for action. All of the elements of the current Order of Service will be there, with nothing added and nothing taken away. What will be different is the order of the elements of the service and their placement within the three-part arc of love, truth and action. I struggle with the current Order of Service, specifically its energy flow and the order and arrangement of the elements within the three-part arc.

My plan also had been to convene a team of folks passionate about worship to redesign the Order of Worship substantially, starting with a blank slate and rebuilding from there. I had thought to do this next spring. However, as the Board of Trustees and I get into the work of developmental ministry, it is not yet clear to me where the priorities for my time need to be. Worship is one of the developmental goals – and yet it might be best for other goals to take priority. So, this project is a 'maybe' for next spring, but will happen down the road at some point.

October Service Attendance

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Number in Worship
10/02	62
10/09	66
10/16	57
10/23	75
10/30	67

Leadership 101 Seminar Saturday, December 3rd

Why attend a leadership seminar at Second Unitarian Church?

- You are an established leader in the congregation or at your worksite and want to improve your skills for leading groups.
- You are just embarking on your leadership journey and don't feel confident of your leadership skills.
- You are uncertain of your leadership skills and fear that you may be asked at some time in the future to serve on the Board, the Stewardship Committee, or to chair some other committee within the congregation.
- You are interested in finding ways to be involved in your church.
- You forgot what you learned the last time you attended the seminar:-)

Being comfortable in a leadership position is a skill anyone can learn: comfort level increases when you learn how Second Unitarian does its work and gain confidence in your own leadership skills. (Continued)



Engaged in the process.

GET INVOLVED

Leadership 101 includes an exciting, interactive curriculum based on information from the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, the Midwest Leadership School, and leadership trainings from outside our UU faith. It is conducted by an experienced team (past attendees!) from our local UU community and coordinated by the Leadership and Nominations Committee.

The Leadership 101 Seminar will be held Saturday, December 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Second Unitarian Church. We will start by settling in with food and beverages, with the **program starting promptly at 8:30 a.m.** Continental breakfast and lunch are complimentary.** Child care is available; please give the name(s) and age(s) of your child(ren) when you register.

To participate in the seminar, send your name(s) to leadership@2uomaha.org. **Reserve your space before Sunday, Nov. 20th; the number of participants who can be served in this seminar is limited.**

We are so excited to be able to offer this Leadership Seminar at Second Unitarian Church. Through Leadership 101 you can:

- Build connections to other leaders in the congregation
- Develop transferable leadership skills
- Build confidence for leadership
- Identify resources available to increase your leadership capacity
- Become familiar with our congregation's systems, governance structures and procedures



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

Retirees' Group Tuesday, November 8th

In honor of Veteran's Day, the program for Retirees Group will recount the experiences of John Thomas Harris, a Confederate soldier from 1862 to 1865. This program will be presented by Ray Harris, Thomas's great-great-grandson, on Tuesday, November 8th at 1p.m. The presentation includes Thomas's war journal, the story of his military unit and information about Thomas from the National Archives. Spoiler Alert: Thomas was a POW and was also wounded in battle. Join us for this exciting story!

Retirees Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month for socialization, fun and learning. You are welcome whether you have retired or not!



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!

Calling all 7th through 12th Graders Teen Movie Night for November *The Little Prince*

Due to the cancelation of October's movie night, our Second Unitarian teens (7-12 graders) will be viewing *The Little Prince* as the November movie.

The date, and other details will be announced soon. A discussion of the film will be led by Bob Fischbach. Snacks and drinks will be available and a freewill donation taken for pizza.

KIOS FUNDRAISER

We will continue to collect KIOS donations until November 15th. Second Unitarian can bundle your KIOS Public Radio contribution with other KIOS donations to purchase ad spots for our church. Last year we raised over \$1500 - which equated to a Friday afternoon ad for almost a whole year! To date we have collected \$1100! Can you make it to \$1500? Can we beat last years' \$1500?! Please send your contributions to the church or leave them in the Sunday offering plate.

Make your check payable to Second Unitarian Church with KIOS in the Memo Line. Questions to Nancy Amsler. Thank you!



Meditation Group

Many of the problems in our country and in our world today are founded on hatred and ignorance. A very important aspect of Buddhism is called Metta, which means lovingkindness. In Metta meditation, one sends wishes of love and happiness - first to oneself, then to those you love, and then to those who hate you or cause you suffering. Imagine for a moment the idea of sending lovingkindness to people you despise. In the Buddhist tradition, this is a very powerful way to transform the world, to turn darkness into light.

Metta meditation is something the Mediation Group has studied and practiced on a regular basis. If this is something that resonates with you, we would love to have you come to one of our meetings and learn with us. The Meditation Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM in the sanctuary. Upcoming meeting is November 16.

Town Hall Meeting Sunday, November 13th at 11:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars for the Town Hall Meeting on Sunday November 13th from 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Join us for an engaging conversation about where we are in our very first steps in Developmental Ministry! We have much to celebrate and share with you and want to hear from you! Lunch will be served. **Please RSVP to Board@2uomaha.org and include child care needs and any dietary restrictions.** Questions? Send to Board@2uomaha.org.

Loss at the Holidays



On Thursday, Dec. 8th, Rev. Cyndi will be leading the Pastoral Care Program, “Loss at the Holidays” from 7pm to 8:30pm at Second Unitarian Church. This program covers all types of losses, including death of a family member or friend, loss of job, loss of pet, relocation, and general “holiday blues.” Please join us in this time of meaningful reflection.

If you want to reserve childcare, please notify Pam Curtiss-Smith at childcare@2Uomaha.org, no later than Sunday, December 4, 2016.

LB 268 - The Death Penalty

In 2015 the Nebraska Legislature changed the death penalty to life without parole. The law was Legislative Bill 268. Governor Pete Ricketts vetoed the bill. The state legislature overrode the Governor’s veto. A group secured enough signatures to put the death penalty question on the November ballot.

On November 8, 2016 Nebraskans will vote on the death penalty issue. Ballot language concerning the death penalty is confusing. A vote to RETAIN will eliminate the death penalty and replace it with mandatory life in prison without possibility of parole. A vote to REPEAL will keep the death penalty.

Share the Plate November 2016

Food Bank for the Heartland

One half of Second Unitarian's offering received in November will go to **Food Bank for the Heartland**. Food Bank for the Heartland distributes food to 530 food pantries, schools, emergency shelters and other nonprofit partners. They are the largest food bank in Nebraska and Iowa, serving 93 counties in the two-state region. **For every dollar they receive, they can provide three meals.** Food Bank for the Heartland operates its own programs that serve vulnerable populations directly, including: Kids Cafe, Back Pack, Mobile Pantry, SNAP and Kids Cruisin' Kitchen. As the number of hungry children, families and seniors increases, these programs expand to meet the growing need. To find out more about Food Bank for the Heartland visit their website: foodbankheartland.org.



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

Women's Alliance

At First Unitarian

Women, and those who identify as women, are invited to attend the Women's Alliance gathering on **Monday, November 14th. Socializing and beverages at 6:30, dinner at 7pm.** The November meeting will be about First Unitarian's Partner Church in Firtosmartinos, presented by Nadine Keith and Janet West. At the end of the fiscal year, Women's Alliance donates to their scholarship fund.

Our dinner selection for November will be provided by Eddie's Catering: roast beef in gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, rolls, eggplant parmesan, and Italian medley. When you RSVP, please indicate whether you prefer the vegetarian or the meat entrée. Desserts for November will be provided by Ann Van Hoff and Nadine Keith.

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

You can RSVP by email: [Click Here to RSVP via EMAIL](#). You can RSVP via the Facebook event.

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