



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## Second Thoughts

### September happenings at 2U

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- September 6th** - Choir Practice Resumes p.11
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- September 26th** - Stewardship Meeting

### UPCOMING SERVICES

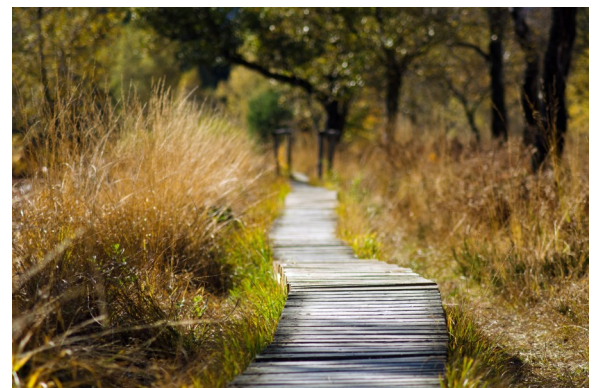
#### Aspiration

- **September 3rd:** *Breathing Hope*
- **September 10th:** *Water Communion*
- **September 17th:** *Living in the House of Yes*
- **September 24th:** Lay led Service  
See page 16 for more details.

*Join Us This Sunday!*

**Worship Services**

**10:30 a.m.**



By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather And autumn's best of cheer.

Helen Hunt Jackson

A NEW YEAR

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying what the summer has brought you.

It has been a strange and stranger summer – with terrible happenings on the national and international levels. With a resurgence of public and visible white supremacy and racism. With nuclear threat.

With new degradations every day to our democracy, our climate concerns, our desire for justice and equity in all walks of life in our nation.

This continues to feel horrible.

And it may not go away any time soon. So, we need to learn from our siblings who are oppressed by reason of their perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or immigration/refugee status. This is not news to them. The white supremacy, homophobia, transphobia and xenophobia have always been there. Our nation was built on them, literally, through the unpaid and/or unacknowledged work of enslaved people, of immigrants, of women. We need to learn from our siblings who are and have been oppressed. They know what it is like to settle in for the long haul of resistance.



## REVEREND CYNDI

Those of us with various forms of privilege – be it in our perceived race, class, ethnicity, citizenship, gender identity or sexual orientation – we are used to having our cares and concerns matter at all levels. We are used to, maybe not winning all our fights, but having our concerns tended to and addressed in many ways in the nation and our local communities. We are used to *matter*, in the larger scheme. So, we must learn, with humility and grace, from those who have never had those privileges, whose very existence is not affirmed publicly in so many ways.

From them, those of us with greater privilege can learn fortitude, perseverance, patience, optimism, resilience, commitment and determination – in ways we may never have before. With grace and humility in our beliefs, our actions and our commitments.

And I hope we can bring these same qualities to our shared lives here at Second Unitarian; to the culture change to which you committed through our shared Developmental Ministry. You made a commitment to make deep changes in how you understand and live your UU Identity, your ways of Welcome, the Structure that binds us and our how and why we Worship. We achieved a great deal together last year in identifying shared outcomes that would indicate the desired changes have occurred. Now it's time to live toward them! This will be a process of years, not days or months.

And they should be years of greater meaning, greater change and greater love for our Unitarian Universalist faith and for one another and for the wider world. It has been a delight to be with you on this journey – and I look forward to the next stage of the path!

So may it be; blessed be,

*Cyndi*





## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A couple Saturdays ago, I invited anyone who was interested to join in a conversation about what RE should look like as we move into a new year. I was blessed to have 12 individuals join us. Some were parents of teens, other of toddlers. There were former class leaders but also members of the congregation who have never been in a classroom. Some were not parents, but all were committed to the faith and future of our younger 2U members. Many ages and perspectives. ALL provided wonderful comments and insights.

One area we talked about were the current age groupings we have on Sundays. We talked about the challenges of getting youth to come on Sundays, and the frustration of older elementary children. And we came up with a solution. Our age groupings will now be as follows:

- Spirit Play: PreK through early readers (move up when parents/child decide)
- Intermediate: Readers through fourth grade
- Second Circle: Fifth through eighth grade

We're hoping that this segmentation of the intermediate and youth groups will result in children who are happier coming on Sundays because their needs are being met.

Thanks to Elise Brazeal-Daganaar, Pam Miller-Jenkins and Jaime Short for helping with the delicious food spread during our brainstorming meeting: it was amazing!

We are, of course, also looking for volunteers in the RE classes. I'll have a sign up sheet in the foyer. I will provide a training on **Saturday, September 9th from 9 - 12** (see notice on page 11). As a reminder, we do check the names of all who facilitate classes with minors against the national sex offender registry as well as provide teaching teams and open classrooms as a commitment to our safe congregations policy.

Sunday school will start on **Sunday, September 17th!** I look forward to seeing you all there! Don't forget to register your child(ren) online: <https://goo.gl/forms/amt1e2LkbwQE0COU2>. I'll also place a link in the upcoming RE news.

Thank folks who participated in summer RE! See the list of volunteers AND BOOKS on the following page.

And last, but certainly not least, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), our youth group for seventh through twelfth graders, will be starting on **Wednesday, September 13th at 7 p.m.** in the Common Room at First Unitarian. We will be registering youth for YRUU, going over expectations with parents/guardians and meeting new advisors and members. We will also be talking about what the coming year will look like and figure out some calendar items. It should be a productive, fun meeting to start off the year!

With the light of learning-  
Molly Kliment-Jenkins - DRE



# Closing the Book...

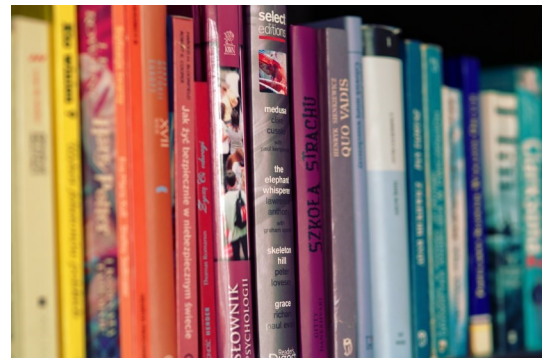
It's time to put our summer reading list away... here's to all those who made our "Summer Books We Share" series a success! Your ideas and books were great: we discovered new and old authors, we did some fun things, and we learned!

If I left off your name, I sincerely apologize. I hope I caught everyone!

Sue A.	Maria D.	Julie N.
Joan B.	Cyndi L.	Jaime S.
Elise B.	Monica M.	Justin S.
Cheri C.	Pam M.	

And, for fun, here's a list of all the books we read:

The Story of Ferdinand	The Little House
Tenth Good Thing About Barney	Parts
Story of a Dolphin	Du Iz Tak?
If You're Not From the Prairie	Newspapers and Butter Pecan Ice Cream
The Snow Queen	Man Made of Stars
Who Needs Donuts	



## 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!

## Treasurer's Report of 2017 - 18 Operating Budget

by Cheri Cody, Treasurer

In July we saw a significant surplus due to the transfer of prepaid pledges into current pledge income. Twelve pledge units have paid 100% of their 2017-18 pledge commitment.

	July 2017	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$41,310.89</b>	<b>\$41,310.89</b> (19% of budget)
<b>Expense</b>	<b>16,030.21</b>	<b>16,030.21</b> (7% of budget)
<b>Net Over/Short</b>	<b>\$25,280.68</b>	<b>\$25,280.68</b>

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$39,503.00); Pledges for Previous Year (\$726.00); Offering (\$1079.41); Other Income (\$2.48).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,289.80); Minister's Compensation (\$6,749.88); Administrative Expenses (\$111.13); General Expenses (\$3,638.35); and Committee Expenses (\$241.05).



If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at 402-334-0678, or email: [treasurer@2uomaha.org](mailto:treasurer@2uomaha.org)

## It's Almost Time to Fill Out Those Spending Plans Finance Committee

Every Fall the Board of Trustees requests that all church committees that have a budget line in the Annual Operating Budget complete a Spending Plan Form to indicate how the budgeted funds are to be spent and identify any risks of expenses exceeding budget.

When committees submitted their budget request forms last winter, objectives and spending needs may have been different than what exists today.

If you are responsible for a budget line and don't receive your spending plan request by September 10, please contact Clyde Anderson. **Spending Plans are due by Monday, October 2nd.**

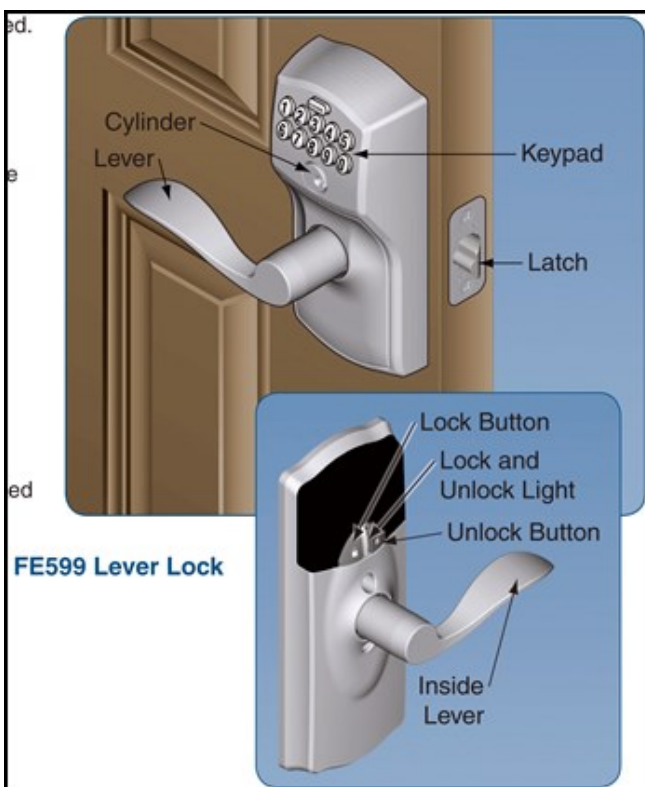
## Board of Trustees

The Board will hold their annual retreat September 2nd. At the retreat they will be establishing goals and a vision for the new church year.

### New Lock on the Front Door Building & Grounds

The keypad entry lock on the front door to the church was showing signs of wear and its operation became unreliable. Building & Grounds replaced the lock in early August.

Outside the new lock is identical to the old one. Just input a valid four-digit entry code, the light at the top will show green, and you can pull down on the lever to enter.



However, this new “smart” Schlage Model FE599 lock offers many remote control features using Z-Wave technology. This will allow the Minister and Office Administrator to unlock the door remotely with their cell phones when a visitor calls on the intercom.

The new lock looks and operates differently on the inside. Instead of the thumb lever to lock and unlock the door, you now use two push buttons. Push the left button, a light flashes red, and the door locks. Push the right button, the light flashes green, and the door unlocks.

Unfortunately, you cannot by just looking at the display tell whether it is locked or unlocked. So if you are locking up the church, always press the left button and verify that the red light is displayed. Once outside, please pull down and pull out on the lever to be sure the door is locked.

The operation of the keypad lock on the Basement Door remains the same as before.

**We started issuing the new entry codes Sunday, August 20th. If you are a church employee or volunteer and still need an entry code, please contact [Jaime Short, Office Administrator](#). The old entry codes will be deactivated about September 11th.**

## Social Justice Update

Omaha Together One Community held a summer educational series about community organizing including Core Team development and 1 on 1 meeting training. Amazing turn out for 2nd Unitarian. We were often the largest attending group with 8 - 9 folks each session. We'll be utilizing the skills learned in these sessions to build stronger connections within our congregation and in our community.

We continue to work on revising the Share the Plate program.

1. We'll be finalizing the order of service insert to solicit nominations from the congregation. Look for them in September.
2. In order to create a more robust relationship with our share the plate organizations and provide more opportunities to our congregation members to engage with the organizations, we are looking into extending the collaboration period beyond current one month format.

Thank you to those who attended the vigil August 13th at Turner Park for the violence that occurred in Charlottesville. Notwithstanding the short notice, over 300 folks were in attendance to hear a superb group of speakers.

Regarding Charlottesville, UUA president Rev. Susan Frederick-Grey wrote:

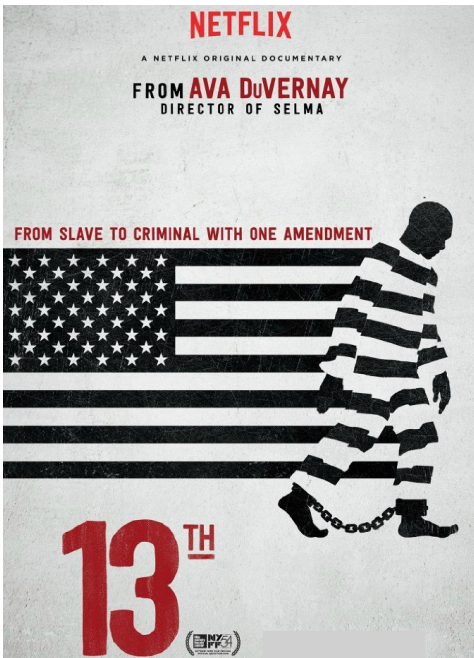
*White supremacy is not new in this country, but its renewed boldness is. Today, Charlottesville was the front line of a battle against oppression that includes American militarization at home and abroad, the criminalization of entire communities, and the belief that violent power makes righteousness. It is time for people of faith and conscience, for anyone who is committed to a vision of the Beloved Community, and especially those of us who are white, to show up -- and to continue to show up -- forcefully and nonviolently for love and justice. We must unite against white supremacy, neo-Nazism, and fascism.*

Join us on **Sunday evening September 24th** for a public screening of **13th**, a film that explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States. **See page 9 for more info.**

### AUGUST SERVICE ATTENDANCE

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Number in Worship
8/06	49
8/13	60
8/20	50
8/27	52





## Social Justice Movie Night - *13th*

Join the Social Justice committee for movie night in the Sanctuary, Sunday September 24th.

Potluck at 5:15 p.m., movie starts at 6.

We'll be doing a public screening of *13th*.

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans. [Click here for more details and to view the trailer.](#)

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## YRUU begins September 13th

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) is a combined group of 7th -12th grades from First and Second Unitarian Churches.

Our youth love the acceptance and belonging this group provides. Youth are free to be themselves in a truly supportive and fun community. Adult advisors guide them in the areas of community building, social action, worship, learning, leadership, and congregational involvement.



Youth join in fun, fellowship, and faith development every Wednesday from September to May. YRUU meets in the Common Room at First Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. The Young Adult Committee (YAC) meets once a month on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Any youth or parent may attend these planning meetings.

Please attend our first youth and parent meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, September 13th at 7 p.m. in the 1st U Common Room.** Have a teen that wants to join? Contact the youth group leaders at [yruumaha@gmail.com](mailto:yruumaha@gmail.com).

## The annual Book Sale is coming right up!



If you're looking for some books to snuggle up with this fall, come & browse the 2U Book Sale - **September 24th and October 1st** (with a rain date of October 8th). This will be a good excuse to get rid of books and DVDs you have already read or watched and make way for some new ones. We have a lot of good books for sale this year and could always use more. The cost is a free will donation. You could leave donations on the bottom shelf of the Macyl Boruff Library or under the coat racks. Happy browsing!

## Fall Church Cleanup Saturday, October 7th! Building & Grounds Committee

Please mark your calendar! Our Fall Cleanup Day is scheduled for **Saturday, October 7th from 8:00 am to Noon**. We will have plenty of tasks for everyone!

We may also schedule a special work day on a Saturday in September. Watch the weekly e-newsletter for an announcement or contact Clyde Anderson.



## For those who went to the eclipse viewing with 2U



As an expression of gratitude to Tom P.'s step brother Andrew Case, who gave us the use of his lovely and secluded cabin for Eclipse viewing..... Please go to the Facebook page for the Cabin - "Beyond Seclusion" - and leave a positive Review and/or Comment. The Cabin is a business for Andrew and the positive reviews will be very helpful. Thank you all who contributed to the pass-the-plate for Andrew, too!

Here is the link to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecasesfarm/>

## Join RE and Get The Tools to Do the Job!

What: Religious Education Sunday Morning Facilitator Training

When: **Saturday, September 9th from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Where: Second Unitarian Garden Level Meeting Room

Why: Get comfortable and confident in the class space and knowing what the year will bring. Learn about the different classes and see if you can help fill some Sundays.



We will offer two times, depending on which ages you are teaching. **If you are in the Intermediate and Second Circle classes (roughly elementary through middle school), please plan on coming around 9 a.m. If you are helping in the Spirit Play/Montessori classroom (PreK-early readers), please show up around 10 a.m.** There will be a half hour - 45 minutes where I will have everyone filling out the same forms and hearing the same information, while we enjoy donuts, coffee and juice together. Then the first group will leave around 11 a.m. and the Spirit Play group will stay until 12 p.m.



## Sing a beautiful song with the choir!

Weekly choir rehearsals begin again **Wednesday, September 6th at 7 p.m.**

## Rise Up to End White Supremacy

- **Saturday, September 9th - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**
- **Omaha Nebraska, Millard area (TBD)**

This event is a call to action by Suit Up Nebraska and a response to an America First rally planned by Act for America, a hate group identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center.



Link to Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/463152910733824>



## Retirees' Group Omaha Did You Know???

### – An Overview of VNA Services

Please join us **Tuesday, September 12th, 1 p.m.**, in the Church Sanctuary for a presentation by Kathy Rehder, RN from Visiting Nurse Association. She will give us an overview of the services available from the VNA. The organization has many presentation topics available; help choose future topics that would be of interest to you.

You do not have to be retired to join us—all are welcome! Retirees Group meets monthly for socialization and learning.

## September Share the Plate Omaha Permaculture

**Social Justice has decided to continue our “plate sharing” with Omaha Permaculture for the month of September.**

Omaha Permaculture creates community gardens while working on sustainable land management that:

- Reduces mowing maintenance and absorbs more storm water
- Reduces dumping
- Provides edible landscapes for people and wildlife
- Replants forests
- And builds park benches for the community to enjoy on Omaha's most forgotten and blighted properties.



You can find out more about Omaha Permaculture at [omahapermaculture.org](http://omahapermaculture.org)



If you know of a worthy charitable organization that you would like to nominate for Share the Plate please complete the nomination form. [Here is a fillable PDF form for Share the Plate.](#) If you'd like help completing the form, contact Cheri Cody, Carol Johnson, or Pat Caffrey.



## EnqUUiring Minds is back!



**Have you been visiting our congregation for a while and are wondering about Unitarian Universalism and this church?**

**Have you been a member for any length of time and desire to explore your own spirituality and learn more about our faith?**

**Would you like to meet some wonderful people and spend time with them in rich and deep discussion?**

**Then EnqUUiring Minds is for you!**

Then EnqUUiring Minds is for you! This course, sponsored by the Membership Committee and led by Reverend Cyndi, is being offered again in October. We will meet to discuss and share our Unitarian Universalist faith and our own spiritual journeys on: **Saturdays from 9:30 to 12:00 on October 7th, 14th and 21st.** If you have been a longtime member OR are thinking about joining Second Unitarian, then this class will intrigue and surprise and delight you! Please join us! You may register with Membership Committee Chairperson Donna Dudley.

## Do you still have your eclipse glasses?



The Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) is collecting eclipse glasses for an organization called Astronomers Without Borders.

Judy E. is collecting the glasses to drop off at the NRD. Look for the box on the coffee bar and turn the glasses in by September 10th. Or you can drop off your glasses at the NRD or mail them in.

Papio Missouri NRD  
8901 S 154th St  
Omaha, NE 68138

## Gender Revolt! A Celebration of Queer Cinema

Second Unitarian is proud to be a promotional partner with Film Streams on *Gender Revolt!: A Celebration of Queer Cinema* (August 26th – September 27th), a collaborative repertory series presented with UNO Women’s and Gender Studies Program. This series is generously supported by Sam Walker. Film Streams is located at 1340 Mike Fahey Street.

From the bawdy Pre-Code era when homosexuality was implied in the sensational stories of wayward souls, to the innuendo-heavy mid-century melodramas of directors like Douglas Sirk, to the New Queer Cinema movement of the late 80s and 90s, and arriving at a current climate where an LGBTQ story can win the Best Picture Oscar, the movies have been one of the most visible spaces for representations of queer lives and experiences. In ten films, *Gender Revolt!* will attempt to highlight this heritage. All show times are posted about two weeks before the movie. Find out more at [filmstreams.org](http://filmstreams.org)

**September 2nd & 6th - *All About My Mother***  
1999 (R)

Directed by Pedro Almodóvar.

A masterpiece from a director known for bending gender and sexuality as well as genre. Spain/France; 101 min.

**September 5th - *Kiki***  
2016 Directed by Sara Jordanö.

A documentary on a group of LGBTQ youth who form a safe space around the art of voguing. Sweden/USA; 94 min.



**September 9th & 13th - *Female Trouble***  
1974 (NC-17) Directed by John Waters. The iconic Divine plays a crazed mass murderer in this classic from the godfather of transgressive trash. USA; 87 min.

**September 12th, 7 pm - Sing-along & Collaborative Screening: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*** 2001 (R)

Directed by John Cameron Mitchell.

Sing along to the story of a gender fluid “slip of a girl-boy” punk-rocker from East Berlin as their band tours the U.S. following the lover/band-mate who stole their songs. Canada; 92 min. Post-film discussion with Dr. Jay Irwin.

**September 16th & 20th - *Portrait of Jason***

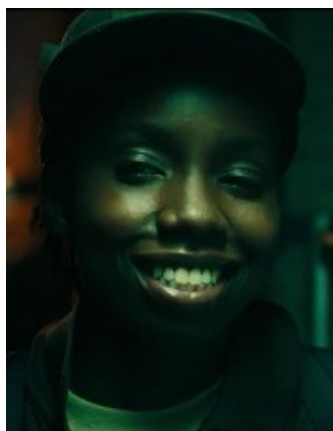
1967 Directed by Shirley Clarke.

A landmark experimental documentary cobbled from a night of marathon drinking with self-proclaimed hustler and master raconteur Jason Holliday. USA; 105 min.

**September 19th, 7 pm**

**Collaborative Screening: *Pariah***

2011 (R) Directed by Dee Rees.



A Brooklyn teenager juggles conflicting identities, jeopardizes friendship and family, and risks heartbreak in a desperate search for sexual expression. USA; 86 min.

**Post-film panel with national scholars on film and queer and intersectional identities.**

**Teen, Member & Friends Movie Night - September 19th** Join us for *Pariah* at 7 p.m. and attend the post-film panel with national scholars on queer and intersectional identities. The movie is on us! Parents should be aware that the movie is rated R. Ticket price is covered by RGL.

**September 23rd & 27th - *Carol* 2015 (R)**

Directed by Todd Haynes.

Voted the greatest LGBT film ever in a BFI poll, this 1950s-set story of desire and denial stars Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara. USA; 118 min.

**September 26th, 7 pm - Filmmaker Screening: *The Watermelon Woman***

1996 Directed by Cheryl Dunye.

Coincidence and simulacra abound as a gay, black 20-something searches for the 1930s actress who portrayed the Watermelon Woman. USA; 81 min.

**With director Cheryl Dunye in person!**



**Second Unitarian Church**

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**September Worship**

**September 3rd: *Breathing Hope*** - Our monthly worship theme is Aspiration. It's about breathing, about what we hope to be, about taking in spirit. We'll look at the idea of aspiration in a variety of ways as we start our year together.

**September 10th: *Water Communion*** - Honoring a UU tradition, we will celebrate our homecoming with the sharing of water. We will gather together and pour waters to express what refreshment we received this summer and what we offer to this community for the coming year. Bring water from a source that represents the way you were refreshed – and don't worry if you forget! There will be water!

**September 17th: *Living in the House of Yes*** - How would it be if we lived and worshiped in a congregation where profound meaning for each of us is present in all that we do? You can think of this as living in the House of Yes, the House of What You Want and Need. It is so different from Living in the House of No!

**September 24th: Layed service**