



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## Second Thoughts

### What's going on at 2U this July?

- July 10th** - OTOC Summer Training
- July 11th** - Retirees' Group
- July 15th** - Open Arms Trans Social Group
- July 16th** - Social Justice Meeting
- July 19th** - Meditation Group
- July 25th** - Blackstone book club

### Summer breaks

- Writing for Spiritual Growth will not be meeting in July and August.
- Meditation Group will not meet in July.



### UPCOMING SERVICES

#### Our Six UU Sources

- July 2:** *The Shadow Knows*
- July 9:** *You Can't Go Home Again*
- July 16:** *Evolution of the Mind and Free Will*
- July 23:** *Never Not Broken*
- July 30:** *The Challenge of Witchcraft*

See page 13 for more details.

**Join Us This Sunday!**

**Worship Services**

**10:30 a.m.**

### First Hour schedule for July

- **July 2nd - Reading Frederick Douglass.** We will read aloud together and reflect on Douglass' groundbreaking speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" Given in 1852, this speech is as fresh and meaningful now as it was then!
- **July 9th - Share the Plate Organization Nebraska ACLU**
- **July 16th - Community Building: One on one Training with Jim Poleshuk**
- **July 23rd - TBD**
- **July 30th - TBD**

*First Hour runs from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning. Childcare is provided.*

Cyndi will resume her monthly newsletter piece in August.



**JUNE  
SERVICE  
ATTENDANCE**

<i>Attendance</i>	
Date	Number in Worship
5/28	64
6/04	102
06/11	85
06/18	60
06/25	56

### Planks & Slivers

At our June 4th Annual Meeting, Steve A. and Lolly T. were elected to our Board of Trustees. We welcome them to the Board as we say “thank you” to Pat C. and Anita M. who have served with dedication for 3 years.

Officers for the 17-18 Church year have been elected: Carol J., Chair; Greg M., Vice Chair; Steve A., Secretary; Lolly T., Co-Chair of Program Council. Joe W. and Don M. continue to serve as Board members and will take on special projects as they arise.

We also say “thank you” to Vicki P. who has served as the Board-appointed treasurer for the past 3 years. Cheri C. has been appointed Treasurer for the upcoming year and we thank her for assuming these duties.



Membership in a team that will be proposing plans for renovating the parking lot and adding a bathroom on the main floor of the church are:

Clyde A., Finance Coordinating Council; Pat C., Board Liaison; Janet D.; JoAnne D.; Gene K.; Tom R., Building and Grounds Committee; Justin S.; and Rev Cyndi Simpson. We will hear more from this group as they develop plans and proposals.

**Our upcoming year promises to be an exciting and uplifting year!**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As I write this, my family is packing for a trip. Although I feel as if things are finally (FINALLY) settling down in my life at home and work, I am still looking forward to the change of scenery. And I am looking forward to new experiences. (That said, if you try to call or text me, you may only get a picture of my feet in some sand and an ocean in the background).



**And that's what being a UU is about. Learning. Exploring. Listening.**

So, I'm going to introduce you to a fun little project that anyone of any age can enjoy. I call it *My Bowl of Nature Wonder*. If you don't have time or energy to explore the greater world, take a moment to explore the micro world.

We live in Omaha, so it's not as if we are living in a cement jungle, but if your life is anything like mine, there are few opportunities to just sit down with a leaf or a stone and look at it closely. To study it. Magnify it.

That's what this bowl is all about. I have a very special bowl... I think I picked it up at a garage sale, but it's handmade and worthy of close study by itself. Make the container something special. And get yourself a nice magnifying glass.



Place items in there that you may encounter often. And some one may rarely encounter. Here are some ideas for what to put in your bowl:

- Onion skin
- Horsetail grass is a weed. If you look closely to the seed head, the "tail" has little serrated edges. You can certainly feel them.
- There are bones where they can see the internal structure - that they are not solid all the way through. And that "weakness" makes them stronger.
- Different kinds of thread, yarn, twine
- Seashells whose patterns get more complex through magnification.
- Leaves with their varied vein patterns
- The different parts of a feather.
- Stones of different compositions - can you see fossils, crystals or air pockets?
- Geometry found in seed pods.

As you look at your items, think about the process that made them. Their function and how form follows. Play scientist or detective. It's a great way for you to quietly explore the world, and share the wonder with another person.

I know you'll be glad you did.

With the light of learning -

Molly Kliment-Jenkins

DRE



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Note from the Office Administrator**  
*Many thanks to my office volunteers!*

I would like to say thank you to my wonderful volunteer team that kept things rolling while I was away in Ireland - Jaime

*Kathie H.*  
*Wesley M.S.*

*Pam C.S.*  
*Mark T.*

**Here is the sign on the  
Unitarian Church of  
Dublin!**

**The church on St.  
Stephen's Green was  
built in 1863 when two  
Unitarian congregations  
joined together.**



**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 2016-17 Operating Budget

by Vicki P., Treasurer

In May we spent more than we brought in.

	May 2017	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$15,605.18</b>	<b>\$171,934.90</b> (91% of budget)
<b>Expense</b>	<b>16,375.60</b>	<b>183,290.63</b> (85% of budget)
<b>Net Over/Short</b>	<b>-\$ 770.42</b>	<b>+\$12,552.36</b>

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$13,449.67); New Pledges from Current Members (\$30.00); New Pledges from New Members (\$1,003.33); Fundraising (\$36.02); Other Income (\$34.44); Offering (\$1,501.72).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,456.94); Minister's Compensation (\$6,485.15); Administrative Expenses (\$351.40); General Expenses (\$3,580.01); and Committee Expenses (\$502.10).

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)

### July starts our new pledge year.

If you pledged, all your contributions will be recorded toward your pledge unless you indicate otherwise. So, if you want to contribute to our Share the Plate recipient by check, write "Share the Plate" or "Offering" in the memo line. To contribute by cash, use an envelope in the back of a hymnal; fill in your name and indicate "Offering/Share the Plate."

If you fulfill your pledge by monthly ACH withdrawals from your checking account and you made a change, the change will be effective this month.



### Retirees' Group *Tour of Baxter Arena*

Please join the Retirees Group for a behind the scenes tour of Baxter Arena, 2425 S 67th St, on **Tuesday, July 11th at 1 p.m.** We will meet our tour guide in the box office area located inside the west doors of the arena. (These are the doors that DO NOT face Center Street—Look for parking lot 25). There is ample parking available.

Retirees Group meets monthly, usually the second Tuesday of the month for socialization and learning. Everyone is welcome regardless of age or retirement status.

### Filling those pesky potholes Buildings & Grounds

The Pothole Team of the B&G Committee convened Saturday, June 10th to fill the large pothole in the south driveway that had developed this past winter next to the sidewalk. Although it is a temporary repair, it was necessary to avoid continued deterioration of the asphalt and possible breakage of the concrete sidewalk. Thanks to Rick Bell, Roger Nicolaisen, Tom Rundquist and Clyde Anderson for their volunteer labor, the cost of repairs was just \$130 for the asphalt patch material.

The Church landscape gardens need friends! Weeds keep invading the flower beds, and some of the not drought-resistant plants need watering during extended dry periods. There are some tools in the Garden Tool Crib on the west side of the Church. It's usually not locked. There is a plastic watering can that can easily be filled using the hose attached to our rain barrel. Mary Anna or Clyde Anderson can give you a quick briefing on identifying weeds.

## July Share the Plate American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is our nation's guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the United States Constitution and laws of Nebraska guarantee everyone in the Cornhusker state.

These rights include:

- Your First Amendment rights - freedom of speech, association and assembly; freedom of the press, and freedom of religion.
- Your right to equal protection under the law - protection against unlawful discrimination.
- Your right to due process - fair treatment by the government whenever the loss of your liberty or property is at stake.
- Your right to privacy - freedom from unwarranted government intrusion into your personal and private affairs.

The ACLU also works to extend rights to segments of our population that have traditionally been denied their rights, including people of color; women; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people; prisoners; and people with disabilities.

Since 1966, passionate Nebraskans who champion civil liberties have ensured the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is able to defend the fundamental rights of all Nebraskans. Nebraska is now home to over 4,000 ACLU financial supporters and over 15,000 activists who reside in every one of Nebraska's legislative districts.

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.



**"Equality before the law."  
Nebraska's motto.  
Our mission.**

## Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) Happenings

Our church is a proud member of Omaha Together One Community, the local congregation-based community organization to make Omaha a better place to live.

- **Building Relationships To Strengthen Our Democracy**

OTOC's Summer Training focuses on how we can strengthen our democracy by building strong public relationships in our congregations, communities and organizations. Learn how to engage in effective individual meetings, develop a team of collaborators, and build the power needed to act effectively. For better continuity, OTOC has reversed July and August topics for this summer's Training Series. Everyone is invited participate.

New schedule:

**July 10:** How to organize a team of leaders so members of our congregation can work together at living up to our shared values. Facilitator: Liz Hall, Lead Organizer in Ames, Iowa. Learn how to build community through discussion and honest reflection on our shared beliefs and values.

**August 14:** How to have effective one on one discussions

**Where:** Augustana Lutheran Church, 3726 Lafayette Ave

**Time:** 7:00pm - 8:30

This series builds on information presented in the previous month. But you are welcome to attend as many as your schedule allows. For more information contact Vicki Pratt at [vlpratt@cox.net](mailto:vlpratt@cox.net).

- **Entertainment at Urban Abbey, 10th and Jackson in the Old Market**

Each month Urban Abbey coffeehouse selects a community partner to receive a percentage of counter sales. July is OTOC month. Drop in for coffee while you're at the downtown Farmers Market or join us for special events.

**Friday, July 14: 6:45 pm** - Kyle Knapp plays and sings acoustic folk and rock ballads

**Tuesday, July 18, 6:45pm** - Juan Carlos Veloso, sings Latin American protest music

- **Issue Cafe at Urban Abbey**

Find out how to make Omaha's Housing Code Enforcement more effective in preventing dangers to children. OTOC's Housing Action Team will host Kat Vinton, Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance and other local housing experts for a discussion on dangers from poorly maintained rental housing.

**Tuesday, July 25, 6:45pm.**

## First Unitarian is Hiring

First U is seeking an experienced pianist to accompany the adult choir for weekly rehearsals and services.

### Position Information and Skills:

- Primary performance instrument is a Steinway Grand piano (Organ competency not required)
- Choir averages 25 members
- Sight reading and ability to follow direction
- Comfortable with eclectic mix of musical styles and genres (i.e. Classical, Traditional Christian Hymns, Gospel/Jazz, Pop and Contemporary Worship)
- Ability to accompany singing groups or soloists
- Demonstrated proficiency in piano/keyboard instruments.
- 3 to 5 years choral accompanying experience preferred

### Responsibilities:

- Provide piano accompaniment for all rehearsals. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm, September thru May.
- Provide piano accompaniment for 10:30am service, 2 times per month. Be present for choral warm-ups before the service.
- Meet as needed with the Choir Director
- Approximately 4 to 6 hours per week, includes independent rehearsal time.
- Be available for special services as needed (eg. Christmas Eve).
- Provide other assistance as requested and agreed upon.

Submit your application to [choirdirector@firstuomaha.org](mailto:choirdirector@firstuomaha.org).

Link to job: [firstuomaha.org/choir-accompanist](http://firstuomaha.org/choir-accompanist)

## Requiem For the American Dream

July 10th 7 - 9p.m., First Unitarian Church of Omaha: Requiem For the American Dream - Free Screening *"In this timely documentary, Noam Chomsky, one of America's most respected and influential social theorists, offers sobering insights on the nation's extreme economic inequalities and the true cost of projecting US power worldwide."*



**Second Unitarian Church**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**OUR SIX UU SOURCES**

**July 2nd: *The Shadow Knows*** - Humans all have a shadow: the parts of ourselves that we don't like, that we deny, that we project on to others. Our shadow does have something important to tell us, both for our personal spiritual lives and our congregational life together.

**July 9th: *You Can't Go Home Again***

**July 16: *Evolution of the Mind and Free Will*** - Can we have free will if our brains and thoughts appear to be purely physical/biological structures determined by genetics and our past and present environments?

**July 23: *Never Not Broken*** - In the Hindu tradition, Goddess Ahkilanda is the Goddess Never-Not-Broken; in other words, she is always broken! What does it mean to be always broken and how can this Goddess help us when we are lying in pieces on the floor?

**July 30: *The Challenge of Witchcraft*** - Many modern Pagans identify as Witches. How might Witchcraft be the same or different from other Earth-centered traditions? Here is an insider's view of Witchcraft from Reverend Cyndi.