



# Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

## Second Thoughts

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

- December 1st - World AIDS Day (page 14)
- December 4th: Fellowship Committee
- December 5th: Worship Committee
- December 6th: Religious Growth and Learning Committee meeting
- December 9th: Writing for Spiritual Growth
- December 10th: Last day to bring gifts for the Siena/Frances House (page 8)
- December 12th: Retirees' Luncheon (page 11)
- December 12th: Membership Committee
- December 13th: Marketing and Communications (MAC) meeting
- December 14th: Finance Coordinating Council
- December 16th: Open Arms Trans Social Group
- December 17th: Social Justice Committee
- December 18th: Library Committee
- December 20th: Meditation Group
- December 24th: Christmas Eve Service (page 4)
- December 27th: Last day for 2017 donations (page 5)

### UPCOMING SERVICES

#### Hope

- December 3rd:** *The Meaning of Membership*
- December 10th:** *What Can We Learn from Video Games?*
- December 17th:** *The Limits of Hope in Hard Times*
- December 24th:** *Christmas Eve Service*
- December 31st:** *Layled Service*

See page 16 for more details.

**Join Us This Sunday!**

**Worship Services**

**10:30 a.m.**

### Change is coming!

This is the last MONTHLY newsletter that you will receive. Not to worry - we will not leave you out of the loop! You will continue to receive the weekly E-news. The weekly E-news will now be your main source of information, and has the added benefit of keeping you informed of happenings in a more timely manner. (see page 3 for more details.)



# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next month we are starting up a new program. Some of you may remember the “Secret Friends” pen pal program from years ago. We are updating it and modifying it.

The new program, 2U Pen Pals, will launch in January. We will pair children with adults and each of you will exchange a letter with your secret pen pal twice a month. The drop off and pick up location will be in the sanctuary at Second Unitarian, (but you have the option of mailing your letters to us). We will wrap up the program the third week of May with a breakfast where everyone discovers who they have been writing to!



It’s time for our monthly for ticket vouchers to the Rose. Children and youth who attend Sunday school second drawing is for three ticket vouchers to any remaining Rose Theatre show...and the winner is...

Zia Daganaar

I’ll be mailing out the tickets to Zia and her family. And if you see her on Sunday, congratulate her on her lucky draw! And if you missed out this time, be sure to write your name on a ticket every Sunday and drop it into the jar for the drawing. Putting your name in each Sunday you come will increase your chances!

With the light of learning-  
Molly Kliment-Jenkins  
DRE



## **NOVEMBER SERVICE ATTENDANCE**

Date	Number in Worship
11/05	79
11/12	67
11/19	59
11/26	57

## More on the newsletter cancelation

Readership of the monthly newsletter is down very low.! People are much more likely to read the weekly E-news. Our Constant Contact program that we use to send emails tracks the number of readers per each email, so this is not just an assumption.

After careful discussion by the Marketing and Communications (MAC) committee and the staff it was decided to end the lengthy once a month newsletter. We also had a good discussion of how the weekly e-news will be re-worked to be the most useful to all.

**Committees can still release information! Readers will still be able to stay in the loop! And even better, everyone will have much more up-to-date information!**

Here are six steps to make your announcements heard:

1. If you email your information with other requests or documents, your announcement might be missed. Send a separate email to [info@2uomaha.org](mailto:info@2uomaha.org) to ensure that your info does not get lost! Many folks accidentally use my home email. I do not check that as often as I should, so chances of your announcement being lost are high!
2. Writing your own "blurb" will help your chances of correct communications.
3. Please submit announcements for weekly E-news and the Order of Service by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays.
4. Let me know what dates you want your "blurb" to run.
5. Please remember all submissions will be published at the discretion of the Office Administrator. (This means if you want your info published in every communication for three months in a row that may not happen.)

Thank you so much for helping me to help you!

- Jaime

## Worship themes for 2017-2018

October: Courage

November: Abundance

**December: Hope**

January: Intention

February: Identity

March: Welcome

April: Structure

May: Worship

June - August: Summer Theme TBA



## First Hour schedule for December

### First Hour Book Series

#### *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*

In *Becoming Wise*, Krista Tippett has created a master class in living for a fractured world. Fracture, she says, is not the whole story of our time. The enduring question of what it means to be human has become inextricable from the challenge of who we are to one another. She insists on the possibility of personal depth and common life for this century, nurtured by science and “spiritual technologies,” with civility and love as muscular public practice. And, accompanied by a cross-disciplinary dream team of a teaching faculty, she shows us how.

Krista Tippett was the [Ware Lecturer for the UUA General Assembly in 2016](#), and is the creator and host of the award winning radio program and podcast [On Being](#).

We’ll be using [the six part discussion guide](#) for facilitation.

- **December 3rd:** *Becoming Wise* - Introduction: The Age of Us
- **December 10th:** *Becoming Wise* - Words: The Poetry of Creatures
- **December 17th:** *Pronouns: Why They Matter*. Led by Rev. Cyndi Simpson
- **December 24th:** No First Hour
- **December 31st:** *Becoming Wise* - Flesh: The Body’s Grace
- **January 7th:** *Becoming Wise* - Love: A Few Things I’ve Learned
- **January 14th:** StringSprouts: Our January Share the Plate organization
- **January 21st:** *Becoming Wise* - Faith: The Evolution
- **January 28th:** *Becoming Wise* - Hope: Reimagined

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

## A note about the Christmas Eve service December 24th

This year Christmas Eve is on a Sunday! Therefore, our Christmas “Eve” service will be on **Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.** So join us for Christmas “Eve” at our regularly schedule service time.



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

Cheri Cody, Treasurer

In October, we had a deficit of \$1,374.40. We still have a significant surplus year-to-date resulting from prepaid pledges recorded in July.

	October 2017	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$14,702.06</b>	<b>\$83,891.63 (38.26% of budget)</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>16,076.48</b>	<b>67,248.91 (30.67% of budget)</b>
<b>Net Over/Short</b>	<b>\$ -1,374.40</b>	<b>\$16,642.70</b>

Income came from Stewardship Campaign Pledges (\$12,689.33); Pledges for Previous Year (\$.00); Offering (\$1,472.75); Fundraising (\$537.50); Other Income (\$2.48).

Expenses were from Salaries and Benefits (\$5,423.61); Minister's Compensation (\$7,010.15); Administrative Expenses (\$226.97); General Expenses (\$3,045.24); and Committee Expenses (\$370.49).

If you would like to see more detailed financial reports, you can join the Finance Committee, contact me at 402-210-9029 or email: [treasurer@2uomaha.org](mailto:treasurer@2uomaha.org).

### End of Year Giving Reminder

Finance Coordinating Council

**Please remember:** Your 2017 donations to the Church must be received by **3 p.m. Wednesday, December 27th** to be recorded for the 2017 Tax Year. By the end of January the Treasurer will send you a summary of your 2017 recorded financial contributions. Please save this statement for your tax records. If you have any questions, please contact Cheri Cody, Treasurer.



### It's Budget Time Again!

Finance Coordinating Council

It's almost time to start developing our 2018-2019 Budget. Committee Chairs and other budget line owners will be receiving Budget Request forms. After itemizing your spending needs for the next fiscal year, the forms need to be submitted to Joel Haskins, Finance Chair by Monday, January 9th. The Budget Team will use the information to prepare a proposed 2018-2019 budget for our 2018 Pledge Campaign in March.

## B&G is Thankful for all our volunteers!

Clyde Anderson, Building & Grounds

Second Unitarian Church is blessed with a nice debt-free building and large corner lot. But it's a big challenge keeping the property maintained. Much of the maintenance is performed by our loyal Building & Grounds volunteers. Despite a wet Saturday morning for our October 7th Cleanup, nine volunteers pitched in to get many of the tasks completed. Our November 11th Work Day focused on the church yard, and seven volunteers had the grounds looking really nice for the Thanksgiving Dinner November 18th.

Thanks to Rick Bell, Rod Bauman, Ruth Corwin, Janet Doan, April Horstman-Reser and daughter Addie, Dave Jenkins, David Johnson, Carla/bill Kuhn, Larry Kurtz, Roger Nicholaisen, and Shirley Rundquist.

## Keeping Our Church Grounds Safe

Winter weather will soon be upon us! Although we have a contractor who plows the church driveways, parking lot and some of the walks, we rely on volunteers to help clear snow off the walks, steps, and porches. Snow shovels, sand, and de-icer are located in the Entryway under the coat rack. Please feel free to use these items as necessary when ice and snow make walking the church grounds dangerous.

If you see something unsafe inside or outside the church, please refer to the Emergency Contact Information sheet posted on the bulletin boards and Furnace Room doors, or notify Buildings & Grounds as soon as possible: Call or email Clyde at 402-740-5556 [ClydeLAnderson@cox.net](mailto:ClydeLAnderson@cox.net) or Rick Bell at 402-681-9459 [rickbellisu@gmail.com](mailto:rickbellisu@gmail.com).

### PRIVACY POLICY FOR CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Church policy states: *Respect for the privacy of members, friends, and visitors is a primary consideration. When 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 on the website), please inform the Office Administrator in writing. Thanks!

## Support the principles and activities of 2nd Unitarian

As 2017 draws to a close, we hope you will consider a year-end contribution to further Second Unitarian's mission.

A contribution to the Second Unitarian Church Endowment Fund through our year-end campaign is a great way to help the Church reach its long-term goals. Now, as 2017 draws to a close, is an excellent time to make a tax-deductible donation in any amount. A year-end donation not only helps Second Unitarian but may also reduce your 2017 tax liability.

The Endowment Fund was created to expand the impact of Second Unitarian Church by helping it to reach major long-term goals. Our goal is \$250,000 and we are now half way there. When we reach the \$250,000 mark, we can begin withdrawals from the Fund to help realize dreams such as:

- Renovation and expansion of the existing church or purchase of a new facility
- Providing educational grants to develop our leadership skills
- Increasing our outreach to the greater community
- Having a global impact through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Through the Endowment Fund, you can help to grow Unitarian Universalism so others can enjoy the benefits of faith development, supportive relationships and social justice you have enjoyed.

Send your 2017 year-end donation to the church, or you can drop it in the collection plate at Sunday service. Questions about the Endowment Fund and the 2017 year-end campaign can be directed to [Sue Aschinger](#), [Phil Phillips](#), and [Russ Alberts](#).



## Be an angel this holiday season

The Angel tree is up! This year we are collecting holiday gifts for the Siena/Frances House homeless shelter.

Simply choose a tag off the Angel tree, pick up your chosen item or items while holiday shopping, and **drop your gift off at church no later than before the service on Sunday, December 10th.** Gifts should be unwrapped.

Siena/Frances is hoping to distribute holiday gifts to over 1400 children, women and men this year. Let's offer our help in making the holidays special for the children and adults who will be spending Christmas Day at the shelter.

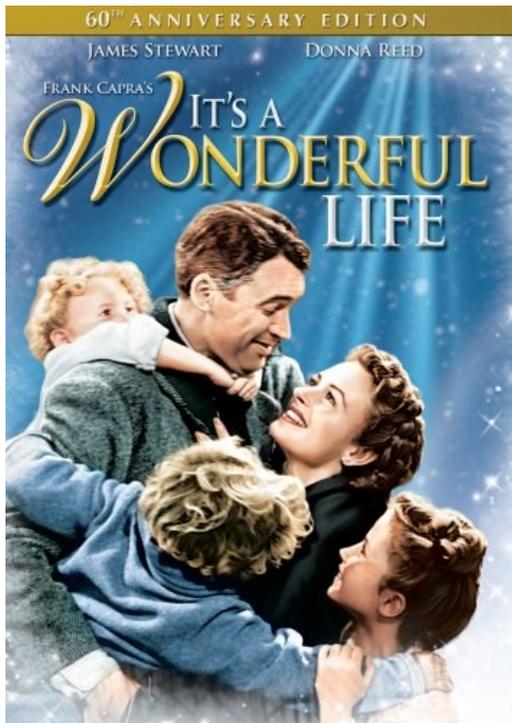
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## Sign up for 2U Pen Pals

In January, we will pair children with adults to be pen pals! Pairs will exchange letters twice a month. The drop off and pick up location will be in the sanctuary at Second Unitarian, (but you have the option of mailing your letters to us). We will wrap up the program the third week of May with a breakfast where everyone discovers who they have been writing to!

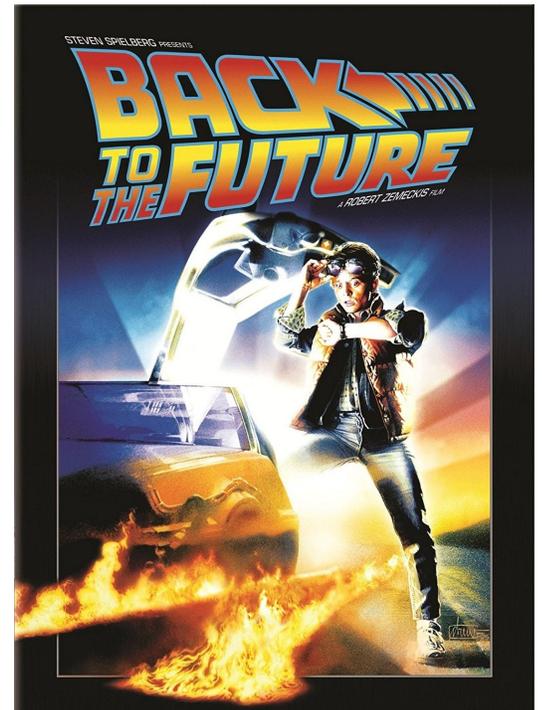


## Teen Movie Night



**December 17th, at 4:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary, the 2nd Unitarian teens will watch the holiday classic [It's a Wonderful Life](#). This movie was filmed in 1946 but remains relevant today. It is a shining example of our UU principle of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. An angel is sent from Heaven to help a desperately frustrated businessman by showing him what life would have been like if he had never existed.

On **January 21st at 4:30 p.m.** the teens will watch and discuss [Back to the Future](#) and explore the Unitarian Universalist 7th principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. In this movie, a 17 year-old student is accidentally sent 30 years into the past, encounters young versions of his parents and must make sure they fall in love or he will cease to exist.



Please join us December 17th and January 21st for snacks and pizza (free will donation accepted for pizza) and a discussion led by the adults and teens in attendance.

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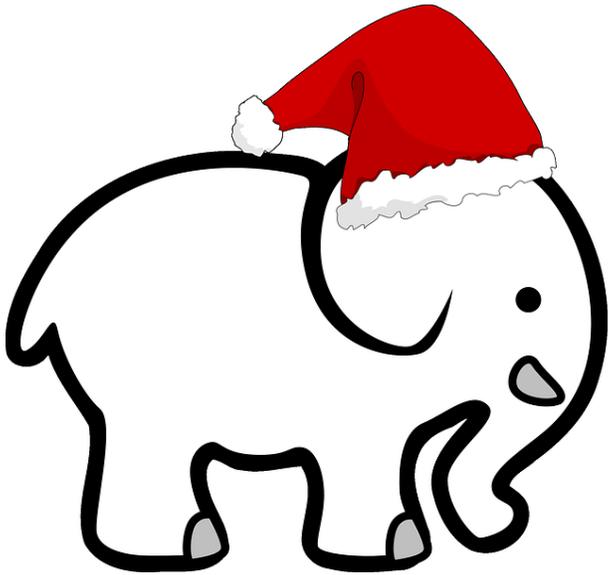
## Caring & Connections

This is where you can announce major milestones in your life, as with Sunday morning Joys and Sorrows. Share other important news and celebratory events as well. Email news to [info@2uomaha.org](mailto:info@2uomaha.org). Please remember, that just like Joys and Sorrows, you must obtain permission from the individual if you are not submitting a personal item.



## Women's Alliance

Women, and those who identify as women, of First and Second Unitarian are invited to attend our annual white elephant gift exchange for Women's Alliance on **Monday, December 11th**. The evening will begin with socializing and beverages at 6:30 p.m. Heavy appetizers and desserts will be served around 7 p.m. with the gift exchange following.



Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share along with a wrapped gift. Re-gifting is strongly encouraged! The alliance asks for a donation of \$15 which goes to the Merritt Education Fund. First time attendees are considered guests of Women's Alliance. Please consider joining us!

Every year women's alliance helps out the community through donations. This year's recipient is Women's Center for Advancement (WCA). While their wish list asks for many items, we are collecting new or gently used women's clothing, luggage, backpacks, new socks and undergarments, diapers/pull-ups, deodorant and shampoo. Please consider donating.

Please RSVP to Jeri Thurber [here](#) or RSVP to the Facebook event. Please include whether you will be bringing an appetizer or dessert to share.

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## December Share the Plate Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, & Maria Relief Funds



Due to the emergency situations in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico our offering will be shared with the hurricane communities' recovery and relief funds. We will be sharing our plate with these communities until the end of December.

**On Christmas Eve our offering will be to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund.**

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.

## KIOS Collection

Thank you to all who donated to our KIOS collection! We raised \$1635!

Gay & Steve Abraham  
Clyde Anderson  
Sue Aschinger  
Betty Bange  
Rod Baumann & Janet Doan  
Rick & Kathy Bell  
Joan Benziger  
Cheri Cody  
Ruth Corwin  
Joel & Kathie Haskins

Anita Jeck  
David & Carol Johnson  
Molly Kliment-Jenkins & Jeff Jenkins  
Melissa Konecky  
Larry Kurtz  
Pete & Carolyn Miller  
Janet Nichols  
Vicki Pratt  
Tom & Shirley Rundquist  
Gary Toth & Anita Meyer

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## Retirees' Group December Luncheon

Please join Retirees' Group for our annual December Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 12th**. As is our tradition, we've chosen a local and minority owned restaurant - another way to act on our Unitarian Universalist principles. We'll meet at **11:30 a.m.** at Quick Bites Soul Food, 105 W Mission Ave in Bellevue. Parking is on the street. Please note that we are gathering before noon (11:30) to ease the noon rush. The restaurant serves "comfort food". You can read about them on the [web](#) or on [Facebook](#).

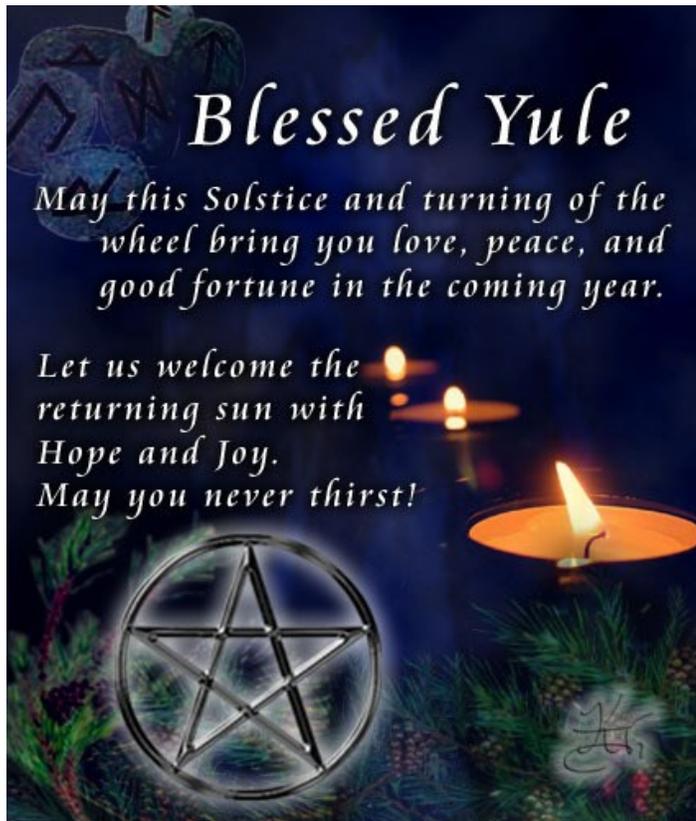


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## Calling All Youth - Check out YRUU!



Join in fun, fellowship, and faith development at the YRUU youth group! **Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. from now until May**, the youth from Second Unitarian join First Unitarian youth for YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). Youth 7th grade to 12th grade meet in the Common Room at 1st U. Check it out!



## CUUPS Yule Ritual

Join the CUUPS group for a Yule Ritual on **Sunday, December 17th**. The ritual will be held at First Unitarian, please plan to arrive between 6 - 6:15 p.m. The ritual will start at 6:30 p.m.

Lead by Cassi Moucka, Yule will be an ecstatic dance celebration of the birth of the Sun King, in a very modified version of Gabrielle Roth's 'Sweat Your Prayers' model. Potluck to follow, please bring a dish to share. Childcare available.

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## FREE TICKETS to the Rose Theater?

Ready to expose your child to the finer arts? Every time you come to Sunday school in the garden level, write your name on a ticket and add it to the fishbowl. Once a month we will draw out a winner. Get those tickets in to be part of the drawing!

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## Fair Trade Products on Sale for the Holidays

*While supplies last*

Fair Trade Products make wonderful house warming gifts for the holidays. Coffee, chocolate, olive oil and more are sold on Sundays after service. We even accept credit cards for those impulse purchases of \$10 or more. See Phil Phillips or Joel Haskins by the Coffee Altar during the Fellowship Hour. Purchase of fair trade products help support small farmers and their families in third world countries. The products are certified as grown and produced in a sustainable manner with minimal environmental impact.



### Community Ally Social Justice Event

Join [Black Men United](#) and [Nebraska Appleseed](#) to see how you can use your voice and take action on important community issues in the 2018 Nebraska Legislative session.

Get a quick training on ways to be an advocate and learn about important bills in the upcoming session that could affect your community's health care, food security, and protecting the rights of people who have been convicted of a felony.

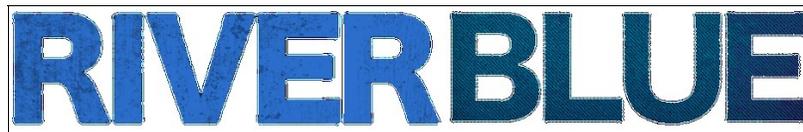
**Monday, December 11th at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

The Omaha Rockets Kanteen - 2402 Erskine Street

There is NO COST to attend. Please just let us know you're coming so we can provide an adequate number of meals. [Facebook event page](#)

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### 2017 Reel to Real Sustainability Film Festival Presents



*Can fashion save the planet?  
Through awareness, we evolve*

Join Green Omaha Coalition (GOC) on **Wednesday, December 6th** for a screening of the [new documentary RiverBlue](#). Explore how "fast fashion" is negatively affecting the planet and hear from panelists about how this issue is being addressed locally and what you can do. The event includes socializing, food & drink, and GOC's annual membership meeting.

5:30 p.m. Hors d'Oeuvres & Socializing

6:00 p.m. Welcome by GOC President, Sarah Murray, plus GOC Annual Member Meeting

6:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

7:00 p.m. Movie Starts

Admission includes reception with cash bar. [Reserve your ticket online.](#)



**Service of Remembrance  
7 PM Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**

On Friday, December 1, World AIDS Day, Trinity Cathedral will host an interfaith service of remembrance. A section of the AIDS memorial quilt will be on display in the cathedral, and there will be prayer and music to remember all those who have died of AIDS.

We'll also hear from several community leaders about how we can continue to help put a permanent end to this disease. The service is being planned in partnership with the Nebraska AIDS project. The service begins at 7:00 pm.



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
113 North 18th Street  
Omaha, NE 68102  
402-342-7010



**Second Unitarian Church**

3012 S. 119th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Hope**

**December 3rd: *The Meaning of Membership*** - On this day, we will meet and celebrate the new and renewing members who have joined us this Fall. We will welcome them with a shared liturgy of covenant and commitment and with a spirit of hope for the future of this beloved religious community.

**December 10th: *What Can We Learn from Video Games?***

**December 17th: *The Limits of Hope in Hard Times*** - Hope, we are often told, is a bottomless resource of comfort and support for us. But can there be limits to hope? Might hope be calling us to something other than comfort? Let's hear about what it means to be a people of hope, especially in challenging times.

**December 24th: *Christmas Eve Service*** - In a traditional service of Readings and Carols, we will hear again the story of the birth of Jesus. We will reflect on where the hope can be found for Unitarian Universalists in the Jesus story. Our offering will be to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

**December 31st: Layed Service**