**BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING**

*When you think of a new minister for our church, what comes to mind?*

The Ministerial Search Committee is hosting a thought-provoking workshop called **Beyond Categorical Thinking** on Saturday, August 27 from 9:30am – 12:30pm. Our trainer, Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the UUA’s Transitions Office, will facilitate the conversation where we will have a chance to examine how not to let prejudice become a part of our search process.

The **Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT)** program works with Unitarian Universalist congregations to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. During the Beyond Categorical Thinking visit, the congregation will learn more about its institutional culture, examine ways it can be more inclusive in its consideration of ministerial candidates, and surface subtle and often unintentional, unconscious biases members hold that may result in a decision to not select the minister who would be the best fit for their ministerial needs.

Unitarian Universalist ministers who identify as people of color; as Latina/Latino/Hispanic; as bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender; or as a person with a disability often have a more difficult time in the ministerial search process because of unconscious congregational biases.

The **Beyond Categorical Thinking** program creates opportunities for conversations and reflection for the congregation to identify issues related to identity. In the process, congregations explore some of these biases, learn more about the search process, and begin to think about next steps, such as further consultation, education, or training beyond the BCT program.

Five reasons to consider coming to the **Beyond Categorical Thinking** Workshop:

- You’ll learn more about the search process—how many ministers are looking, who our competition is, and what is typical for a UU congregation.
- You’ll get a nuanced look at how discrimination still happens in Unitarian Universalism.
- Ministers want to know not only if the congregation had a BCT workshop, but how it went and how many people showed up.
- You’ll learn how Unitarian Universalism has evolved in 20+ years of doing this program and how it hasn’t. In fact some of our concerns about calling ministers with particular identities is exactly the same as it was 20 years ago.
- You will have fun. Keith Kron has led this workshop 188 times. He’s interested in learning about the congregation and has been doing anti-oppression trainings like this for over 20 years.

“Saying the wrong thing is such a ‘sin’ in UU congregations, that we can be afraid to challenge oppression even when we see it. But in the end, it’s only by having frank conversations that we change things for the better.” - Keith Kron
A Month of Sundays
10:00AM at 6300 A Street

Sunday, August 7 - “For Such a Time As This”
Black men and police live in fear of the “other.” People who are mentally unstable can easily purchase automatic weapons. Random violence seems to occur daily. Too often, religion seems to promote that violence. How can our UU faith provide a successful response?

Worship Leader: Gretchen Woods
Worship Associate: Jesse Metcalf
Music: Bill Carpenter, piano

Sunday, August 14 - “Dumpster Diving for Reality: UFOs and Roswell”
What can we learn from the hands-on witnesses to the 1947 Roswell UFO crash?

Speaker: Curt Donaldson
Worship Associate: LauraLee Woodruff
Music: Bill Carpenter, piano
Share the Care: Newcomer Committee

Sunday, August 21 - “Water Communion”
UCL re-gathers from the summer activities, bringing water to symbolize the refreshment and renewal for our spirits that comes from those activities.

Worship Leaders: Gretchen Woods, Chelsea Kraftka, Karen Dienstbier, Christina Strong
Music: Bill Carpenter, piano
Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

Sunday, August 28 - “The Van Gogh Cafe”
Living our Unitarian Universalist values isn't always as easy as we would like it to be. Often what we strive for is not what actually happens. How can we improve the odds that we will lead with our best values inside and outside our congregation? This sermon will explore these issues as they pertain to your next minister.

This service will be a follow-up to the special “Beyond Categorical Thinking” workshop which will be held on Saturday, August 27 beginning at 9AM. The Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) program works with Unitarian Universalist congregations who are in the search process for a new settled minister. (see pg 1)

Worship Leader: Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the Transitions Department of the UUA
Worship Associate: Gretchen Woods
Music: Bill Carpenter, piano
Woods Working:

“Meet the Rev. Keith Kron, Director of Transitions, UUA”

One of the goals of a transitional period between ministers is to update the congregation’s connections with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The Unitarian Church of Lincoln (UCL) has an opportunity to do just that when Keith Kron, Director of Ministerial Transitions at the Unitarian Universalist Association joins us the weekend of Aug. 26 – 28.

Keith will offer his expertise to the congregation in a number of ways:

• He will meet with the Board and Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) for a potluck dinner on Friday, August 26, to review questions and concerns regarding the search for a new minister.

• On Saturday, August 27, from 9:30am to 12:30pm, the entire congregation is invited to attend “Beyond Categorical Thinking,” a workshop that will explore biases you may harbor regarding possible candidates for ministry. This is especially helpful to the MSC, as it considers possible candidates for the ministry here at UCL.

• On Sunday, August 28, Keith will present the Sunday service, then, following light refreshments, he will also offer time for questions regarding any concerns about the relationship between the UCL and the UUA. Please do come to meet your UUA staff and express your appreciation and concerns. All are welcome.

Warmly,

Gretchen Woods, AIM

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Deep gratitude to all who helped Judy Finholm and Gretchen Woods during the recent hasty move to a new home here in Lincoln.

Packers: Kathy Disney, Jackie Egan (especially for packing all the art), and KK Munson.

Movers, who packed the trucks and van and then unloaded: Curt Donaldson and Kathy Disney, Jean Helms, Harry and Karen Heafer, Trish, Declan, and Rylen Lanning, Sheila and Georgia Maly, Sheila and Jazi Thomas (who also set up the kitchen) and Mark Weddleton.

Bless you all!
RELIGIOUS GROWTH & LEARNING

Top 10 Reasons to Teach or Assist in our Religious Education Sunday School Program:

10. Dirt, hula hoops, chalk, togas…find out what is going on back there!
9. Learn all you need to know about UUism but were too afraid to ask.
8. Because it is more fun than a committee meeting.
7. Because it takes a village to raise a child.
6. Kids say the darndest things – you are guaranteed a smile.
5. If you come to church and played with clay and paint by yourself – people may look at you funny.
4. The commitment is just 7-10 times per church year! That is less than an average of once a month!
3. It’s fun and it’s easy! Chelsea provides a lesson plan to teachers and trainings for all volunteers.
2. Change the world. If you change one life you have made a difference.
1. Karma credit.

Save the dates:

Assistant Training
Sunday, September 11 at 11:30AM

Teacher Training
Friday, September 9 at 6:30PM or
Saturday, September 10 at 10:00AM

Parent/Guardian Orientation
Sunday, September 18 at 11:30AM

WE WANT YOU!

We are in need of many more teachers and assistants for our Sunday School program. The theme this year is: "World Religions". Please let Chelsea Krafka know if you are interested in helping or if you have any questions.

religiousgrowth@unitarianlincoln.org

We need shoe boxes!

Please bring shoe boxes to Chelsea’s office for use in an RGL classroom. They are needed for a lesson on September 8. Please let her know if you are able to bring one or a few and you are welcome to bring them by Chelsea’s office any time.

AUGUST RGL CALENDAR

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<td>Water Communion: All Ages Service</td>
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<td>August 28</td>
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST ART GALLERY:
NOYES OUTREACH

“Noyes Outreach”, artworks created by Noyes Cooperative Gallery artists, will be displayed in the Unitarian Church Art Gallery during the month of August. The Noyes Cooperative Gallery is located at 110 South 9th Street in the heart of the downtown Lincoln art district.

The Gallery features approximately 60 artist members who show their work and volunteer their time to help operate the business. Artists whose work is featured in the 2016 Noyes Outreach Travel Show have used a variety of artistic techniques to create their images, including watercolor, acrylic, photography, and mixed media.

SURVEY! SURVEY! SURVEY!

The Ministerial Search Committee pressed “send” on the congregational survey last month. We need you to fill it out—it’s the most important thing you can do to help the church this whole year. Why? Because while we are looking for a minister, ministers are also checking out churches. In essence, we’re composing our “singles ad” for the church with information from the survey. The survey asks you about who you are so we can paint a picture of our congregants for ministers to get to know us. The survey also asks you what you’re looking for from your church life and your future minister so the committee can find the best minister match.

The survey questions are based on a model from the Unitarian Universalist Association, but your committee tried hard to tailor them to answer the right questions for us. We estimate it will take you 20 minutes to fill out the survey.

Please respond by August 1.

Our national organization tells us that as ministers look at churches, they look hard at how many of the congregation participated in the survey. A low survey response rate sends the message that we’re not engaged and enthusiastic. This is why having your voice added to the survey will put us in the best position to attract a minister by putting us in our best light. We’re aiming high—we want a 95% response rate.

We’ll gather your survey responses and share them with minister candidates in a packet describing our church. Just as an effective singles ad doesn’t lie about your real age...or whether you actually do enjoy walks on the beach...we’ll have a packet that tells the story of who we really are and who we think we can become with the right minister.

So please: fill out that survey! If the church office has your email, then you’ve received a link to the online survey. (Check your spam file too--they might end up there.) If we didn’t have your email address, we mailed you a paper copy instead. Want to get the online version? Email the committee at search@unitarianlincoln.org and we’ll get you a link. Need a paper copy? There is a stack awaiting you in the church near the search process poster.
Shared Hospitality Workshop

Saturday, August 20 • 8:30am - 12:30pm

Why do we offer training to our new members and others at a Shared Hospitality Workshop? Because it is important to us to “Welcome the Stranger” in a way they will want to return. The idea behind offering the workshop is that we encourage everyone to learn how to be welcoming and friendly to our visitors.

Remember how important it was to you when you first arrived at church – smiling faces welcoming you and your family into this new church? This kind of a workshop is not new to our congregation. We have offered the workshop for several years so that our members feel comfortable in welcoming and greeting others. It has been proven both at this church and other congregations that if a visitor feels welcomed and comfortable then they will return to learn more about the congregation.

Our Unitarian Universalist Congregations for many years have had the opportunity to take training so that members and friends feel comfortable greeting and welcoming our newcomers and guests. The concept of “welcoming the stranger” goes back far into our past. As our Christian roots tell us, Jesus welcomed the stranger as one of his own when he was preaching and in his daily life. Wasn’t this how he acquired his disciples and other converts to Christianity? I am certain that we can find similar stories about the Great Buddha and other holy people. Welcoming of our newcomers and our visitors needs to be intentional and it needs to be a regular part of our shared ministry.

Please join the Newcomer Committee, the Membership Associate and Management Team Membership and Education Coordinator on August 20 for the Shared Hospitality Workshop. The workshop is open to anyone interested in getting involved in Sunday greeting activities several times during the church year. It is a great way to make new friends!

Training is given in door greeting, welcome table hosting, and ushering, coffee serving and first sunday chat activities.

We will also take a safety tour of the building and talk about the evacuation plans for certain emergency situations.

The Shared Hospitality Workshop agenda is as follows:

8:30am light breakfast
8:45am welcoming words from the Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods our Interim Minister
9:10am welcome and introductions of all attendees
9:30am Break – take a few minutes to have a stretch, or a short walk
9:40am “Visiting with People One Doesn’t Know – How to Begin the Conversation” in the church Auditorium - Q & A to follow
10:40am Participants rotate through each individual Sunday Hospitality stations for training at the welcome table, door greeting, ushers, coffee station, and the library for First Sunday Chat training.
11:50am Safety Walk through the building
Noon meet back in the auditorium for Q & A, and to fill out the evaluation form

Please plan to attend!
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team met in June and reviewed our progress during this interim period with the valuable aid of the Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods. We found that we had completed our goals for the last year. We reviewed the goals and activities that Gretchen believes belong in the next year. We were interested and excited by the possibilities presented.

• **August 2016** “Beyond Categorical Thinking” Workshop by Keith Kron, head of Transitions Department, UUA, 8/26 - 8/28.

• **September 2016** Begin services and classes on UU Principles. Including a workshop on “Living the Interdependent Web,” an additional Listening Circle, and a workshop on “Atonement and Reconciliation.”

• **October 2016** Congregation involved in the Annual Canvass.

• **November 2016** Search Committee completes prep of materials for search

• **December 2016** Winter Holiday season 2017

• **January 2017** Begin Emotional Genius class, Covenant of Right Relations: last Saturday

• **February 2017** New set of Fair Witnesses works on Covenant of Right Relations, Pre-candidating period begins

• **March/April 2017** Candidate announced

• **April/May 2017** Facilitating Difficult Conversations classes, Candidating Week, Minister voted on

• **June 2017** Farewell Service with Interim Minister, Farewell Recital by Gretchen to benefit UCL

Transition Team: BJ Wheeler, Jerry Petr, Becky Seth, Evelyn Weymouth, and Keith McGuffey

UUA BOOKSTORE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH:

“Guns Don’t Kill People, People Kill People”: And Other Myths About Gun Control

Author: Dennis Henigan

*Debunking the lethal logic behind the pervasive myths that have framed the gun control debate*

"When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." We’ve all heard these slogans time and again. The result of a targeted marketing effort by the NRA and other pro-gun organizations, these catchphrases have come to define the contemporary gun control debate.

Dennis Henigan explodes the misguided thinking at the heart of these pro-gun slogans and dissect their deadly impact on US gun policy in this completely revised and updated edition of his much-praised 2009 hardcover (Lethal Logic, which has never been published in paperback). The gun lobby's remarkable success in infiltrating the gun control lexicon with these catchy slogans has allowed them to block lifesaving gun legislation for decades and gained them unprecedented influence in American politics.

In this well-researched but accessible book, Henigan takes the NRA's myths to task and exposes the fallacious thinking behind the gun lobby's bumper-sticker logic.

www.uuabookstore.org  Price: $16.00
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member: Heather Fox

As a native Nebraskan, Heather Fox is pleased to be back near the prairies and a new member of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. She began coming to church more than a year ago so that her daughter Ivy who is 10 years old would have a church home. Ivy attends Sunday school classes regularly and has made many church friends.

Heather was a facilitator for the Cottage Meetings and enjoys various activities at church. She has taken many of the classes for newcomers and most recently came to the Nuts and Bolts workshop. She has identified several areas of interest on her Sharing Your Gifts form. Heather is very much involved with environmental issues and will help where she can with the Green Sanctuary. She and Ivy will be participating in the Fresh Start Home dinner program offered by our church. She likes making coffee so I’m sure you’ll find her in the kitchen on some Sunday mornings.

Heather works for Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. In her role as an Education Specialist and Outreach Director she uses her knowledge of child development and love of nature as she facilitates Nature Explore workshops, presentations and design services developed to connect children in all parts of the country to their natural world. Heather has helped to develop the Southern Heights Food Forest at 40th and Highway Two and has enjoyed learning more about permaculture but is not at all a gardener. Ivy will be attending Lefler this fall. She is an animal lover with a flair for writing. They enjoy traveling adventures and cooking together.

Way Station Concert:
Sharon Knight & Winter

Saturday, August 6 • 7:30PM • Auditorium

$15 adults (desired), $10 students, kids < 12 are free

Festival Favorites Sharon Knight and Winter are internationally touring musicians in the mythic-Celtic vein. Their penchant for combining fierce and gutsy bravado with ethereal beauty, a hearty dose of fantastical lyrics, and an obvious love of storytelling has inspired their own style, “Neofolk Romantique”. This often sound less Celtic and more “Folktales that ran away with the Faeries at the turn of the century and took cover in an old trunk bound for the circus, which was then commandeered by pirates.” This suits them fine.

They have shared stages with mythic music favorites such as Faun, Omnia, Corvus Corax, S.J. Tucker, Tricky Pixie, Heather Dale, Wendy Rule, Tuatha Dea, Stellamara, and many more. They have recently completed a 100% crowd-funded CD and music video featuring several of these artists, called Portals.

https://sharonknight.bandcamp.com/album/portals
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cF4hnrsfxYE

Worship Associates wants YOU!

The Worship Associates wants you to be a part of us. Whether you want to speak in the pulpit, say a few words now and again, or work behind the scenes (or, like many of us, do all of the above), we need you. Please consider joining the Worship Associates.

Also, if you are interested in giving a sermon/message for a Sunday service, we are always looking for those who have a message to share.

Contact Jesse Metcalf via e-mail: jesse.metcalf@windstream.net
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harry Potter Summer Camp 2016

offered by Christina Strong with assistance from JoEllen Polzien, Kerry Sangster, and a handful of others
ONGOING ACTIVITIES

The fellowship activities and discussion groups listed below happen on a regular basis and are open to new participants at any time. Please contact the group’s organizer if you have any questions!

Adult Game Night
2nd Sat. • Aug 13 • 6:30/8:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery/Kitchen

Come join us for potluck dinner at 6:30PM and board/card games at 8:00PM. Come for one or both. All welcome. Contact: Leona Braziel 402-489-0916 windflower@aol.com

Bridge Groups

Intermediate Group
Every Tuesday • 2:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery
Coordinator: Corine Simon simondp@neb.rr.com
402-435-0225

Advanced group
Every Wednesday • 1:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery
Coordinator: Earl Kramer krameyer@neb.rr.com
402-489-8213

Want to join us? Contact us prior to the day of the game.

Coffeehouse
4th Friday • Aug 26 • 7:00PM

Board games for adults and kids. Open to all individuals. Hosted by the LGBT Welcoming Cmte. Contact Deb Hope debra.a.hope@gmail.com

Men’s Discussion Group
2nd & 4th Tuesday • Aug 9 & 23 7:00PM • Library

New participants are welcome any time. Discussion topics vary. Visit us for more details or contact Duane Polzien 402-540-5025 duaneep2000@yahoo.com

UU Meditation Sangha
2nd & 4th Wednesday • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Music Room

We gather at 7:00PM and begin a short meditation promptly at 7:15PM. Then we have discussion time followed by a longer meditation period. Contact LauraLee Woodruff holybear47@gmail.com

UU Women Gathering
1st Saturday • Aug 6 • 2:00PM • RSVP for location

Topic: “Aging Gracefully”
Facilitator: Linda Ager
For info, Facebook link, or to RSVP for location contact: Georgia Feiste 402-304-2908 gfeiste@gmail.com

Women’s Book Group
Every three weeks • 10:00AM
6300 A Street • Gallery
For more information, contact Diane Richards dianemn2@gmail.com

August 6 The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son on Life, Love and Loss,
by Anderson Cooper
August 27 Dead Wake
by Erik Larson

Zen Meditation
Every Thursday • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Music Room
We are a small group of UU’s who meditate at church each week. Contact Norm Simon 402-435-0225 nsimon1@neb.rr.com

Men’s Potluck
2nd Monday • Aug 8 • 6:30PM
6300 A Street • Gallery/Kitchen

All men are invited to attend to enjoy good food and conversation. Table service will be provided.

Bruce Raymer 402-475-7875 bruce.raymer@gmail.com

Newcomers First Sunday Chat
Sunday, Aug 7 • 11:15AM
6300 A Street • Library

Meet with visitors and friends in the Library to watch and discuss a 10-minute film. Contact Shelly Fowler seesheills@mac.com

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
4th Tuesday • Aug 23 • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery

The LGBT Welcoming Committee sponsors PFLAG which meets at our church. Confidentiality at each meeting is very important. Please join us or visit us at: www.pflagcornhusker.org

Tai Chi
Every Wednesday • 6300 A Street
Gallery • 5:30PM Beginners,
6:30PM Intermediate

All UU Members and Friends are invited. No experience necessary. Contact Karen Dienstbier 402-489-7545

August 6 The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son on Life,
Love and Loss,
by Anderson Cooper
August 27 Dead Wake
by Erik Larson
## Thank You for the Hospitality

Thank you to all of the Sunday volunteers who have been welcoming our newcomers, friends and members during the month of July. Attendance may be smaller this summer, but the job is still one of the most important jobs done on Sunday morning. Without the Sunday greeters who would be in place to be the welcoming faces of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln as people enter the building, put on name tags, and find their way to the sanctuary? And then following the church service many of you welcome our visitors and friends – thank you to ALL of you!

## All Church Potluck

It has been a long somewhat hot summer and some of us have been traveling. Don’t forget to bring your small vial of water to the Water Communion service on August 21 and share a sentence or two about your summer.

And then plan to stay for the potluck afterward Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Help set up or tear down tables and chairs if you are able.

### SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

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<td></td>
<td>Kristi Wamstad Evans</td>
<td>Mark Shiffler</td>
<td>Reed Maly</td>
<td>Rich Little</td>
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<td>Al &amp; Barbara Pearson</td>
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<td>Tanna &amp; Joe Kinnaman</td>
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<td>Don Pinkley, Larry Gregg</td>
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<td>Michael Reinmiller, Don Pinkley</td>
<td>Don Pinkley, Michele Dobszewicz</td>
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**OUR COMMUNITY**

**Milestones, Millstones, Stepping Stones**

Sympathies to the Enersen and Beranek Families on the death of Peg Beranek, mother of Julie, Lynn, Ed and Mark, mother-in-law to Steve Enersen and grandmother to Alex and Meredith Enersen.

Chelsea and Darren Krafka are excited to announce that they are expecting a baby girl in November.

Our thoughts are with Michele Dobszewicz after the sudden death of her sister-in-law Rosa recently.

Christine Starr Davis has been invited to read and sign copies of her new chapbook, Skin, Bone, Feather on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 7 PM at Indigo Bridge Books. The work recently won the 2016 Tusculum Review Chapbook Poetry Prize.

Laura Weymouth is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. Please send cards to her at Evelyn Weymouth's home, 355 Prestwick, 68505.

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**STAFF & LAY LEADERS**

**Staff**
- Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods, Interim Minister • revdogwoods@gmail.com
- Fritz Hudson, Minister Emeritus • fhudson@uuma.org
- Charles S Stephen, Jr. Minister Emeritus • patandcharles@windstream.net
- Chelsea Krafka, Religious Growth Dir. • religiousgrowth@unitarianlincoln.org
- Jean Helms, Administrative Director • admin@unitarianlincoln.org
- Worship Arts Director TBD
- Karen Dienstbier, Membership Associate • membership@unitarianlincoln.org
- Christina Strong, Administrative Associate • associate@unitarianlincoln.org

**Board of Trustees**
- Reed Maly, President
- Kristi Wamstad-Evans, Vice-President
- Molly Klocksin, Secretary
- Leslie Ryan
- Jamie Radcliffe
- Amy Birky
- Rich Little
- Mark Shiffler
- Linda Brown
- Lindsay Bartlett, Immediate Past President

**Management Team**
- Kathy Disney
- Megan McGuffey
- Michael Straatman

Officers:
- Duncan Case, Treasurer
- Christine Starr Davis, Interim Assistant Treasurer
- Linda Ager, Assistant
- Jo Donohoe, Assistant
- Mary Sommermeyer, Capital Campaign Treasurer

The Board of Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Church. Any member or friend of the church is welcome to attend these meetings.

**Church Office**

6300 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

**Summer Office Hours**
June 15 - August 14:
- Sunday: 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
- Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM –1:00 PM
- Closed Monday & Saturday

Phone: 402.483.2213
Email: admin@unitarianlincoln.org
Website: www.unitarianlincoln.org

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It is available online at www.unitarianlincoln.org/newsletter