In the fall of 2017, the Unitarian Church of Lincoln was settling into a new chapter in its 100+ year history. We welcomed a new minister, a new governance model and a new church year. The Leadership Task Force and the Membership Umbrella, two relatively new committees, decided to launch a survey of our growing congregation to create a snapshot of available human resources and needs in the year between February 2018 and February 2019. The Merriam Webster dictionary says to survey is “to view or consider comprehensively” and that is what we’ve been doing for the last year. Both committees want to thank everyone who helped to make the survey a success.

The following data are based on the 125 completed surveys. They represent just a sample of the interesting information we were able to learn through this process. The Talents & Interests survey will stay open until February 28. This is about 44% of our congregation, based on our membership of 287.

Who completed the survey?

• 81 of the survey takers are members.
• 63% of the survey takers attend Sunday services and sit in the sanctuary during the service.
• 46% typically stay after the service for coffee and socializing and 98% of those surveyed have either participated in the past or are currently participating in making and serving coffee on Sunday mornings.
• 30% hoped for services other than Sunday or wanted a Sunday service time change.

To the question if training was available, would you be interested in participating in leadership development workshops and activities through our church - 28% are interested, 31% might be interested and 13 people are willing to step up to assist or teach in this area. 

(continued on page 9)
February Services

Unitarian Church of Lincoln
6300 A Street

10AM Sunday, February 3 -
"Evidence of Things Not Seen"
Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: Burt Smith
Share the Plate: Camp Summergold

10AM Sunday, February 10 -
"Pulpit Exchange with Lawrence, Kansas"
Worship Leader: Aaron Stockwell
Worship Associate: Christine Davis
Music: Abigail Siedell
Share the Care: Denominational Affairs

10AM Sunday, February 17 -
"Love & Trust - All Ages"
Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: Schuyler Geery-Zink
Music: Eldon Drive

7PM Thursday, February 21 -
Third Thursday - "Trust"
Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair

10AM Sunday, February 24 -
"Decentering"
Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: Jamie Radcliffe

WORSHIP ARTS NEWS

Here’s to a warm February!

I hope the first few weeks of the new year are treating you well. Music at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln is thriving, with so many exciting opportunities. The UCL Choir remains a steadfast part of our monthly services. We hope to announce a new choir director soon, so stay tuned!

Our Third Thursday services have taken off, much to the delight of Oscar and myself. In just a few short months we’ve had services featuring music from Florence and the Machine, Barenaked Ladies, Dave Matthews, U2, Mumford & Sons, Sam Baker, Johnny Cash, Josh Ritter, and more. These services are designed to highlight secular music that enhances our faith.

There is a bumper sticker on my car that says "Music is my Religion." It has been a real treat to realize that faith with Oscar, and to coordinate a spoken message of his (as a faith leader) alongside a musical message of mine, with inroads and collaborations for both sides. If you haven’t been to a Third Thursday Service you are missing out - it’s a real treat!

If you are longing for spring, might I recommend a listen through Beethoven's Sixth Symphony? Called the "Pastorale," it is a musical depiction of lush fields, roaming livestock, and simple farmers. The third movement is a personal favorite.

All the best,
Bob Fuson, DMA
Music Director

“How is it that music can, without words, evoke our laughter, our fears, our highest aspirations?”
— Jane Swan
Trust

As I write this, we are four weeks into the shutdown of our Federal government. I don’t know if there will be a resolution of the shutdown by February 1, but it is likely that the effects of the crisis will last longer than the legislative impasse itself.

The shutdown has had and will likely continue to have very real and very dangerous impacts on members of our community. You don’t have to be an employee of the Federal government to be impacted. Many state-run programs receive Federal funding and are at risk of running out of money. Administration of programs that support the most vulnerable among us has been suspended and benefits may soon run out.

I am asking two things of you: First, if you have been or will be put in financial jeopardy in any way by the shutdown - if your benefits are ending, if you have lost income, either directly or indirectly, and are having trouble making ends meet - please contact the church office. This is why we have a Minister’s Discretionary Fund. Through the generosity of our members, we have an account that can offer tangible support. We do not want any of you to have to make decisions between buying food and heating your homes, between buying medications and paying the light bill. If you or someone close to you needs financial assistance through this crisis, please let us know. We can only help those who inform us of their need.

Second, use this moment to support each other. If you are able, take the time to offer support to those affected by the shutdown. If you know a Federal employee, call them up and tell them you appreciate the work they do. Take them out for a cup of coffee or a meal. Each of us has the ability to contribute to the emotional well-being of another, so please do what you can.

This is a challenging time. But communities like ours exist for challenging times - let us all demonstrate the strength of our community by supporting those whose lives are being affected.

- Oscar
Teacher and Assistant Chat

On January 13, we held a mid-year chat for our Sunday School RGL volunteers. Teachers and assistants met to talk about our Religious Growth and Learning (RGL) program. We discussed the following questions:

- **Celebrations**: What is going well? What do you love about this class? What do the students enjoy most? What is a great moment you’ve experienced?
- **Challenges**: What suggestions do you have for improving the experience this year?
- **Support**: How can the RGL Committee or acting RGD help support you?

Here are some of our volunteers’ responses:

### Celebrations:
- Kids love music, art, and movement, and everything ties back to the theme of the day.
- Kids have been enthusiastic, engaged, respectful of each other.
- Using a ‘talking stick’ gives everyone an opportunity to share and listen.
- When we walked around the room to review previous lessons, they remembered the important aspects of the lessons.
- Kids are enthusiastic, intelligent and inquisitive.
- We exist! We enjoy whoever comes.

### Challenges, Suggestions, and Support:
- We can’t predict how many kids will be there.
- When not many kids show up - or no kids at all - that is a challenge and disappointing.
- There is a lack of consistency week-to-week. It might be good if teachers signed up for 3-4 weeks in a row.
- We need more activities and games involving physical activities.
- It would help to have additional resources, videos, and something for kids to do with their hands during class.

Our church is fortunate to have incredible volunteers who dedicate their time and talents in guiding and teaching our young UUs. One of the reasons I try to attend church on a regular basis is I want my children to have our RGL program be a regular part of their lives. Yes, it is sometimes hard to convince my children of the importance of getting out of bed and attending church on Sundays. Sometimes I hear whining and grumbling, but they are happy once they get to church. After church, they often excitedly share news about their church friends, class activities, and lessons learned.

As a parent, I love that our UU church provides a place where my own children can explore their beliefs and be welcomed into a caring, supportive community. My children have developed friendships and connections with other youth and adults who have shared values in having “an open mind, loving heart, and helping hands.” We are grateful for the adults who “show up” to teach and assist in our classrooms!

To families with children, please consider attending church and Sunday School more often! Our RGL teachers and assistants would love having your children in our classes!

With peace and gratitude,
Kim Ziemann, Acting Religious Growth Director

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**FEBRUARY RGL CALENDAR**

Preschool Class and Nursery Care are available every Sunday for younger Pre-K children in the Preschool Room.

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<tr>
<th>February 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>Regular Classes</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>All Ages Service</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>Regular Classes</td>
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Deal Me In! 2019 Annual Church Auction

Now is the time for everyone to deal themselves in to this year’s church auction. In order to make this major fundraising event successful, we need people to pitch in donations between February 24 and March 24.

We hope that one or more of the following suits you:

**Meal** - This can be simple or elaborate, showing your culinary talents and/or ethnic favorites. The main goal of these is to make new friends, to build relationships and community.

**Themed Basket** - Show your hand at creating one of your own baskets or provide the Auction Committee with the contents and they will construct the basket for you.

**Event** - Get a partner or a group of friends together and put together an evening of fun around a theme of your choice.

**Service** - Share your special knowledge or your talent.

**Tasty Treat** - Baked Goods are to be sold at the Kick-Off Event. Any item that you find at a bake sale would be great.

**Gift Cards** - Donate gift cards for the Raffle Boxes.

All of the items will be ready to bid on at the Kick-Off Event, Saturday, April 6 beginning at 6:00PM.

Please “Deal yourself in” and show up to sign-up and then show up to bid. If you have questions please contact: Karen Heafer kheafer@neb.rr.com or Barbara Pearson barbarapearson@neb.rr.com.

Memorial Reception Committee

I am pleased to announce the formation of the Memorial Receptions Committee. This will be part of the Membership cluster of our Program Council.

To get started I am interested in hearing from people who would like to help on receptions. I wish to build 2 lists with names and contact information: one group who are interested in providing baked goods or fruit for memorial receptions; and another list who can help host either before, during or after.

Being on one of these lists does not require you to help with every reception. Rather they provide a core group to call from to fulfill the needs of each reception. I hope to gather more then enough names to cover when some are not available.

There may also, at times, be a blanket request sent to the whole church as has been done in the past. This would be when a very large number of guests is expected or simply to reach new members occasionally.

Please email me your contact information and which area you would like to help with.

I thank you very much! Jeanne Brooks j.brooksbusinesspro@gmail.com
Showing Up for Social Justice

This month: We presented $100 in Hy-Vee gift cards to Clinton School. Thanks to everyone to purchased Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate in December.

Fair Trade: You can continue to purchase Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate and Palestinian olive oil at the kiosk beside the bookstore.

Upcoming events:

Monthly Meeting • February 5 • 7:00PM
Kristin Grosskopf will speak about PFLAG’s collective efforts that reflect their mission to provide support, education and advocacy for the LGBT community.

All are welcome to join us for this presentation and then leave or join us for the business portion of the meeting, which goes till 8:30PM.

Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day • February 9 8:00AM–2:00PM • Christ United Methodist
Workshops on a variety of topics related to legislative issues. Cost $20; Register on-line: https://www.greatplainsumc.org/2019ksleafandneecumenicallegislativedays

OLLI Movies that Matter • February 21 • 7:00PM • Grace Lutheran Church
"Hope and Fury: MLK, the Movement and the Media" Free, registration is required: 402-472-6265 or https://olli.unl.edu/events

Mark Your Calendars!

Movie: Imprisoning a Generation
February 3 • 7:00PM • Auditorium
Join us to learn more about the oppression of Palestinians as we watch this documentary that follows the stories of four young Palestinians who have been detained and imprisoned under the Israeli military and political systems.

VALENTINE’S DAY IS HERE!
Buy some special chocolate for your special someone here at the church and support the Social Justice Committee at the same time! Equal Exchange fair trade chocolate bars will be sold in the Gallery on February 3 and 10.

Adult RGL Committee Announces Winter Session Classes

From Duncan Case, Chair
The Adult RGL Committee expects that the following classes will be offered for the Winter Session.

• Charlie Ahern - A Long Strange Journey: Origins of Unitarianism (6 sessions)
• Larry Greg - Unseen Challenges of Diabetes. (1 session)
• Becky Seth - Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersection of Race, Class, and the Environment. (1 session)
• John Atkeison, Science and Spirit: Climate Change for Nebraska (6 sessions)

You can sign up for these classes following the services on January 27 and February 3.
John Keller began photography as an electron microscope technician/research assistant at the University of Illinois. His first published photos were electron micrographs of human and mammalian placenta on 3” x 4” glass plates and printed in the department darkroom. John worked as an EM tech and medical lab technologist at Northwestern Medical School while he finished his undergraduate degree. His love of photography continued with formal training and a move from medical related photography to weddings, portraits, commercial and journalism.

John also teaches photography as a professor at Doane University, for the OLLI program at the UNL and for group and private lessons. John maintains a long-running portrait, wedding and commercial studio and gallery, now located in the Mission Arts building in Lincoln, Nebraska. John writes the bi-monthly “Ask Doctor Photo” in the niche publication L Magazine.

John’s passion for photography, both behind the camera and in the classroom, continues with all the light and intensity it had many years ago, capturing images from landscapes, animals, birds and even from the depths of the oceans.

UU YA February Gathering

Saturday, February 9 • 5:00PM

Young Adult Gathering: Friends, attendees, and members of church ages 19-40 are welcome to join us. This month we will show appreciation for those in our community who "show up" and "side with love" by making Valentine’s Day cards. Supplies will be provided but if you have scissors, magazines for clippings, or other card crafting things to contribute, donations are welcome. There will also be plenty of chocolate to share! For questions or to be added to the email list and Facebook group please contact Morissa at 402.840.1178 or morissaraymond99@gmail.com. No child care provided but you are welcome to bring your child if need be.

Share The Plate - Camp Summergold

Sunday, February 3

Camp Summergold is a unique camp experience where girls explore science and arts learning, mixed with the campfires and swimming of a traditional summer camp. Trained mentors and educators build a safe, inclusive, supportive community, creating a place to share, laugh and grow. Camp Summergold’s goals for each camper include: enhanced self-esteem and confidence, increased social and leadership skills, elevated desire to try new things, increased integrity, honesty, and restraint, improved empathy and cultural awareness. The theme for 2019 is SIGNIFICANCE.
Green Corner
From Kristi Wamstad

UCL’s Green Sanctuary has actively tracked the energy use of the church since 2015. The 2018 Energy Graphs and Charts, displayed on the iPad as you enter the church, have been updated with the latest data. Here is a summary of the year:

Total Solar Production = 31,413
- down 9.5% from 2017
Total Solar Sales = $1,014.49
- down 27.7%
Total Energy Used = 510 MMBtu; 0.032 per SF
- up 17%
Total Energy Costs = $6,889; $0.43 per SF
- up 28%

The numbers are not as good as 2017 - but there are several reasons. The lower solar production indicates that there were fewer sunny days in 2018 compared to 2017. In reviewing climatology data from the Nebraska Energy Office, the winter of 2018 was much colder than that of 2017. This explains why our heating use was 19.5% higher. Our general electricity and natural gas use was also higher, but this is likely from increased use of the facilities.

Now some good news: In comparison to 2012, our last full year before the remodel, our total energy use per square foot has declined 36% and the total energy cost per square foot has declined 40%.

Wachiska Audubon Events

Thursday, February 14 • 7:00PM

Program "A Plan to Conserve Nebraska's Biodiversity." Melissa Panella will discuss Nebraska's Natural Legacy Project and Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This free presentation is open to the public.

Bird EnCOUNTer

Saturday, February 16 • 10:30AM • Eiseley Library

This free event will introduce kids and their families to live raptors, music, hand-picked bird books that can be checked out, demonstrations on using kids' binoculars, bird feeding tips, bird ID games using flashcards and other activities.

Field Trip

Saturday, February 23 • 1:30PM • Branched Oak Lake State Recreation Area

Waterfowl and bald eagles are often found here this time of year. Trumpeter swans, eastern bluebirds, purple finches, and gulls have also been seen here. A state park vehicle entry permit is required and day passes are available for $6/vehicle. The public is welcome. Call John at 402.475.7275 if you need directions.

Questions of a general nature can be addressed at the Wachiska office, 402.486.4846 or office@WachiskaAudubon.org.
Order of the Red Grail - ATC
February Full Moon Circle

Sunday, February 17 • 6:00PM

The spark has ignited, and the chain reaction spreads. The flame of the year is rekindled, and the Earth yearns to awake. The Order of the Red Grail - ATC invites the Lincoln Unitarian community to share in a service to rouse the Earth from its winter slumber. We will be dancing and energy raising to move from the dwindling time of winter to the emerging spring. Come join us to celebrate the burgeoning light.

Discussion begins at 6:00PM, followed by ritual close to 7:00PM. Afterwards, please stay for potluck and fellowship. Please bring something to share. As always, the Red Grail supports the local food bank. Please bring donations of paper goods or non-perishable foods. These are desperately needed. The Grail also accepts donations to support the Avalon Spiritual Retreat Center project.

The Red Grail has been partnering with the Unitarian Church of Lincoln for nearly 25 years, offering spiritual celebration and comfort to all Earth-centered people in the Lincoln community. The Full Moon Circles are open to the public. Check the UU calendar for Full Moon Circle dates. Learn more at orderoftheredgrail.org or join our Facebook group!

Many people want to learn more about IT and financial management, leadership, marketing and fund raising. Some consider themselves skilled while others want the opportunity to learn these skills. The original committee discussions focused on church as a living system where participants could try out skills they don’t usually do in their regular work lives. The survey focused on interests and talents in the hope of connecting learners with opportunities.

All of our committees, activities and possibilities exist because someone over our many years had a great idea that was put into action. The data collected has been and will continue to be used by committees and staff to help connect people with opportunities.

A major goal of this survey was to better understand our community by 1) understanding what activities folks are already engaged in and 2) learning more about their interests and needs. Thanks for your patience as the staff and the Membership Umbrella continue to connect you to the interests you mentioned in the survey.

Since we began the survey, a new version of the church database system has been implemented and we have tried exciting new things like Third Thursday services and a growing Adult RGL program. As UCoL’s capacity and focus continues to evolve, our committees will report out data from this survey and reflect thoughtfully about what the most helpful focus of future surveys could be. Our committees will develop a final summary report on what we learned in the coming months so keep an eye out for that and feel free to share your feedback.

Thank you to the many people who participated in this new idea with us. We look forward to continuing to experiment and learn how we can be most helpful to our friends, members, and layleaders!

TALENTS & INTERESTS SURVEY
(continued from page 1)

• 18% are interested in learning more about Earth Centered Events.

• 60% want to or are currently participating in open circles.

• 60% also are interested in adult RGL classes (Adult Educational Opportunities).

• 14% are interested in a potential singles group and 3 people are willing to help organize it!
These activities and discussion groups occur on a regular basis and are open to new participants at any time. Please contact the group’s organizer if you have any questions!

**Bridge Groups**

**Tuesday group:**
- Every Tuesday • 2:00PM
- Gallery

**Advanced group:**
- Every Wednesday • 1:00PM
- 6300 A Street • Gallery

Want to join us? Contact Coordinator Corine Simon simondp@neb.rr.com 402.435.0225

**Coffeehouse**
- 4th Friday • February 22 • 7:00PM • Gallery

Board games for adults and kids. Open to all individuals. Preceded by PFLAG/UU Potluck at 6:00PM. Contact Deb Hope debra.a.hope@gmail.com

**Men’s Potluck**
- 2nd Monday • February 11 • 6:30PM • Gallery

All men are invited to attend to enjoy good food and conversation. Table service will be provided. Contact Bruce Raymer 402.475.7875 bruce.raymer@gmail.com

**Newcomer Chat**
- First Sunday • February 3 • 11:15AM • Library

Meet with visitors and friends in the Library to watch and discuss a 5-minute film. Contact Shelly Fowler seeshells@mac.com

**PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)**
- 4th Tuesday • February 26 • 6:30PM • Gallery

The LGBTQ+ Welcoming Committee sponsors PFLAG which meets at our church. Confidentiality at each meeting is very important. Please join us! www.pflagcornhusker.org

**Tai Chi**
- Every Wednesday • 6:00PM • Gallery

All UU Members and Friends are invited. No experience necessary. Contact Reed Maly 402.570.3841

**UMDOC “Unitarian Men Discussing Over Coffee”**
- Second Tuesday • February 11 • 10:00AM • BRAEDA (33rd & Pionner)

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

**UU Women Gathering**
- 1st Saturday • February 2 • 2:00-3:30PM

For info or location: Contact Marilyn 402.730.9483 Revdiva1@hotmail.com

**Women’s Book Group**
- Every three weeks • 10:00AM • Gallery

For more information, contact Diane Richards dianemn2@gmail.com
- February 16 - My Dear Hamilton: a novel of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton by Stephanie Dray
- March 9 - Us Against You by Fredrick Backman

**Young Adults Gathering**
- 7:00PM • Gallery

Meets sporadically. Informal social gatherings for Young Adults (age 18-40) Activities/discussion topics vary. Attendees need not be members or regular visitors. Contact Morissa Raymond at 402.840.1178 or morissaraymond99@gmail.com

**Zen Meditation**
- Every Thursday • 7:00PM • Music Room

We are a small group of UUs who meditate at church each week in the Music Room. Contact Norm Simon 402.435.0225 nsimon1@neb.rr.com
BOUQUET OF THANKS

This is where we typically thank those who have been helpful to the church. This month, your editor was advised of a thank you note we received from the Clinton Elementary School, one of our PARTNERS in the community. We gathered items and gift cards. It reads thus:

Dear Friends at the Unitarian Church,

On behalf of all the families and students who are the recipients of your gracious donations, Thank You!

You have demonstrated so beautifully to our families that there are people everywhere who will give them the support needed to walk tall and see positivity in the most unlikely places.

Your compassion and respect for dignity of others are qualities we need to practice daily, for there are always those around us who are quietly struggling and need the support of others.

Wishing you ALL a joyous and peaceful holiday season with friends and family.

Blessings, Linda Kern - Family Care Coordinator

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Sunday Service Volunteers

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<tr>
<td><strong>Pulpit Decoration</strong></td>
<td>Becky Seth</td>
<td>Sheila Maly</td>
<td>Karen Heafer</td>
<td>Vicki Treat</td>
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<td><strong>Greeters</strong></td>
<td>Jackie Kehl</td>
<td>Shelly Fowler</td>
<td>Denise Craig</td>
<td>Marj Willeke</td>
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<td>Lee Manns</td>
<td>Amy Birky</td>
<td>Falla Halsey</td>
<td>Jan Buffum</td>
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<td>Judy Hart</td>
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<td><strong>Coffee Hosts</strong></td>
<td>Becky &amp; Sharad</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Morissa Raymond</td>
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<td>Seth</td>
<td>Open Circle</td>
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<td>Carol Kendrick</td>
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<td>Theresa Forsman</td>
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<td><strong>Trustees</strong></td>
<td>Mark Shiffler</td>
<td>Mark Shiffler</td>
<td>Denise DeBose</td>
<td>Linda Brown</td>
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<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
<td>Marj Willeke</td>
<td>Mary K Stillwell</td>
<td>Tim Johnson</td>
<td>Mary K Stillwell</td>
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<td>Bruce Raymer</td>
<td>Frank Edler</td>
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<td><strong>Audio-Visual</strong></td>
<td>Harry Heafer</td>
<td>Heather Hillhouse</td>
<td>Don Pinkley</td>
<td>Keith McGuffey</td>
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<td>Keith McGuffey</td>
<td>Harry Heafer</td>
<td>Patti Cuevas</td>
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Milestones, Millstones and Stepping Stones

Lynn Darling, former member, died December 13. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Ferguson House on Sunday, March 3 at 2:00PM. If you would like to help with food or planning, contact Linda Brown lindar1brown@gmail.com

Please extend prayers of peace to Laura & Evelyn Weymouth on the death of Edgar Pearlstein. He was Laura’s 1st husband and under Evelyn’s care.

Check the paper or online directory for phone numbers and addresses.

The Beacon is published monthly. Newsletter deadline for submissions is the 18th of each month to news@unitarianlincoln.org. The Beacon is available online at www.unitarianlincoln.org/newsletter.

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Regular Office Hours
August 15 - June 14:
Sunday: 9:00AM—1:00PM
Tues - Fri: 9:00AM—3:00PM
Closed Monday & Saturday

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

The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM in the Gathering Place. Any member or friend of the church is welcome to attend these meetings.