My Cup Runneth Over

The Reverend Oscar Sinclair receives the stoles of his ordination.

My cup runneth over. Those words from the 23rd Psalm have been on my tongue for the last several weeks. June has been a month of celebration, and a month of mourning. This month the congregation held a service on ordination and installation of my ministry here in Lincoln. The minister who married Stacie and me joined us to dedicate our daughter Ailish. “You are ordained,” Madelyn Campbell told me during the service, “you will never not be ordained.” The week after the ordination, over fifty of us attended General Assembly, a remarkable showing from this congregation. It was special to share those moments with all of you.

And also, in June, we have marked the loss of many beloved members of our community. In the week that I am writing this, we have memorial services for Bob Stoddard, Ginny Gross, and Jonathan Werner. We gather together in community in times of grief and in times of celebration.

The poet Khalil Gibran put it this way:

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked. And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears. And how else can it be?

The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.

When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

Our cups runneth over, in joy and in sorrow. One of the six sources of Unitarian Universalism listed in our association’s covenant are the Christian and Hebrew scriptures. Each of us has reason to emphasize different sources at different times, and while I do not identify as Christian, I often return to the language and metaphor of scripture in my own spiritual practice.

(continued on page 3)
A Month of Sundays
10:00AM at 6300 A Street

Sunday, July 1 - "Question Box"

This Sunday, come with questions! What questions have arisen for you in the last year, or at General Assembly, that you want to hear about in worship?

Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associates: Sändra Washington, Christine Starr Davis
Music: TCBSQ

Sunday, July 8 - "Game On!"

Games are a powerful way to learn courage, cooperation, and problem solving, and they can even relieve pain and help to save lives! We'll explore the book SuperBetter and how games empower us to bring our best selves to life's challenges.

Worship Leader: Ramona Sacred Sky
Worship Associate: Sändra Washington
Music: Flatwater Percussion Trio

Sunday, July 15 - "Meditation Service"

Plan to be present for a calm, quiet morning of mindfulness in the midst of your summer, with some music, some chanting, some readings, and lots of silence.

Worship Leader: LauraLee Woodruff
Worship Associate: Jesse Metcalf
Music: TBD

Sunday, July 22 - "The Playful Covenant"

Games are defined by their rules. How do we set the rules for how we play and live together, and what happens when those rules fall short?

Worship Leader: Rev. Oscar Sinclair
Worship Associate: TBD
Music: TBD

Sunday, July 29 - "Laughter in the Darkness"

How can we play in times when everything seems grim? Let's explore giving yourself permission to play and be joyful, even in the tough times.

Worship Leader: Jesse Metcalf
Worship Associates: LauraLee Woodruff
Music: TBD
It is tradition for installed ministers to give the congregation a gift to mark the occasion, something that represents a part of the minister’s identity, and that meets a need within the congregation. My other spiritual practice is calligraphy, so I have chosen to donate a copy of the St. John’s Bible to the congregation. The St. John’s Bible was commissioned in 1999 and completed in 2011, the first complete handwritten illuminated Bible in several hundred years. It is as much a piece of art as scripture. It is my hope that it will live in our gallery space (one volume at a time) where our 19th century pulpit Bible rested until last fall. May it be a source of beauty in our lives together, and of wisdom in times of both sorrow and joy.

Yours in faithful community,
Rev. Oscar Sinclair

PHOTOS Clockwise from top left:
- Oscar’s gift to the Congregation: The St. John’s Bible
- The Laying on of Hands begins
- Ordination/Installation Service underway
- Rev. Madelyn Campbell presents Oscar his first stole

Ordination/Installation/Dedication photos courtesy of Harry Heafer and Michael Reinmiller.
Coming of Age

This year, we have two high school graduates who have been regularly attending members of our church. Helen Little and Sammy Burchell.

Helen Little decided this last year to participate in our Coming of Age Program.

This program is offered to high school students at our church who wish to explore some of the big questions in life with a mentor. Kristi Wamstad Evans has been this guiding light for Helen in the past year.

The Coming of Age program is a rigorous series of readings and discussion questions based around finding your Unitarian Universalist identity and spiritual path.

Questions which the participants consider include "Is there life after death?" "Do you have a concept of God?" and "How do you summarize what we believe as Unitarian Universalists?" Sammy Burchell was a high school graduate but did not participate in our Coming of Age Program. I would like to extend my sincerest wishes for them both moving forward. Here is the statement which Helen presented during our Coming of Age/Bridging service in early June:

"Asking a newly graduated high schooler to define their beliefs on the questions that guide our human existence, like "Is there a God?" and "What is our purpose on this planet?" is like asking a plant sprout to host a squirrel nest: we simply do not have enough life experience to fulfill these requests. All there is to know is that there is no way to know the answers to these questions. Your truth may lie within a chosen path of belief that guides your moral decisions, but my truth follows the idea that humanity guides itself through the toils of life, usually by using the security of their religious ideas and communities. I don’t think I will ever be able to believe in a singular, all powerful God who judges us based on the concepts of good and evil, yet that doesn’t mean there isn’t a mystical force that binds our interconnected web of existence. Who’s to say?

I’m claiming agnosticism as my current path of belief while remaining open to exploring other faiths, and this coming of age program has served as the start of my journey down the path of self-discovery.

I have probably felt the most spiritual connection to the world while surrounded by nature, where chaos and order seem to coexist in one of the truest forms of balance. I suppose I believe in the healing power of the natural world, and that our society’s further removal from nature is only taking us away from our base state of being. My path is taking me in the direction of ecology and environmental engineering, but I hope to use natural systems to help local communities, in the efforts of contributing to our church’s living tradition of social activism.

Our church’s commitment to fostering individual spiritual growth, and to turning our founding principles into acts of advocacy, have greatly influenced my decisions in the past year as I faced decisions like choosing a college, major, and the path I would like to travel for awhile. Though the only belief I will claim at the moment is that it is impossible to believe in anything, there’s no telling where my spiritual journey will take me.

THANK YOU KRISTI AND CHELSEA!!!"

(Written by Helen Little)

If you have a teenager interested in participating in our program or are an adult who is interested in possibly being a mentor, please let me know. We let our teens choose their own mentor but sometimes they don’t know where to begin. Let’s wish them well on their journey!

Peace, Faith and Love, Chelsea Krafka

ANNOUNCEMENT:

We are now recruiting teachers and assistants for our Sunday School program! If you are willing and able to devote between 7-10 Sundays to our young UUs please contact Chelsea: religiousgrowth@unitarianlincoln.org
SUMMER MUSIC NEWS!

Music at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln is thriving! I am writing this from the UUA General Assembly in Kansas City where three members of our choir - Carol Kendrick, BJ Wheeler, and Mary Ann Meisner - are singing with the GA Choir.

The choir performed three selections at the ordination of our new minister, and the reception from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Many people stopped to tell me how wonderful the choir was and how beautiful the selections were. For those of you who may not know, two of the selections were commissioned specifically for the UCL Choir. "Love Come Take Me Home" was commissioned for the reopening of our building after the renovation, and "Go In Peace" was commissioned specifically for Oscar’s ordination.

As part of our commitment to enhancing the beauty of our community, commissions of new music will be taking a larger role in our church. There have already been discussions of a sponsored commission, and it is my hope that a portion of the budget for additions to the choir library can be used for commissioning.

Becoming frequent commissioners of new music will not only add to the depth and quality of music in our community and the UU community at large, but will establish our church as a light of hope for artists and musicians.

Supporting the arts is a key component in making our faith community thrive. I will explain much more on the importance of the arts to our world on August 19, when I will discuss how vital it is in a sermon titled "Jazz Is Democracy." I hope to see you there!

All the best,
Bob Fuson, Interim Music Coordinator

Clinton Partnering Meeting

Sunday, July 29 • 11:30AM • Gathering Place

The pilot project partnering with Clinton Elementary has gotten off to a great start. Our efforts received praise from the school staff and now they’re seeking us out for help. On Sunday, July 29 after the service, Brandi Jantzen, the school vice principal, will join us at church to share ideas on how we might deepen this partnership in the coming school year.

This past year one UU visited the school weekly to support literacy efforts with Kindergarteners. Six helped staff the Book Fair. Seven volunteered at the annual school carnival. One led an after school robotics club. We weren’t able to pull off a Talent Show this year but it’s in the works for the next one.

How might we deepen our commitment to the school? Could we collect clothes for students during the Stranger Share Our Fire service? Have a drive to give each student a quality book of their own? Are there more UUs who would like to work with students one-on-one weekly or organize an after school club?

We’ll map out a year’s worth of volunteer opportunities at the July 29 meeting. We hope you’ll join us with your ideas about how you can share your skills and talents with these future leaders.

For more information, contact Mark Weddleton at 402.499.6672 or mweddleton@gmail.com.
**REDUCE - REUSE - RUMMAGE SALE**

Reduce the clutter in your house and give someone else the opportunity to reuse your unwanted items. Donate items to the All Church Garage Sale! Items will be accepted beginning at 10:00AM on Monday, July 30 through 5:00PM Wednesday, August 1. We do not have a place to store things before this time. Things to remember:

- Focus on household items, collectibles, home décor, tools, sporting goods, toys and games.
- Items must be clean, in good repair and usable.
- Items must be priced by you.
- We can accommodate smaller furniture such as end tables and chairs.
- We will not accept large items such as refrigerators, couches, treadmills and freezers.
- No analog televisions, no guns or other weapons, no old computer equipment.
- Donor must agree that we can give any unsold items to another public charity.

So tell your friends and neighbors to save the date and come to the sale **Thursday, August 2 and Friday, August 3, 8:00AM - 5:00PM and Saturday, August 4, 8:00AM – NOON.**

If you are willing to help with the sale, please contact the church office.

Sale Coordinator: Karen Heafer (kheafer@neb.rr.com)

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**In Gratitude**

*From Linda R. Brown*

I am in awe of this congregation. I am still reveling in the experience we shared in ordaining and installing our minister, The Reverend Oscar Sinclair Lewis. The organ sounded. Tears sprang to my eyes.

I was representing you, as I took my place in the procession of ministers gathered to honor Oscar. Then as we started down that aisle, I saw you, so many of you. Pat Stephen returned from Maine. Orvis Wall, recovering from heart surgery, came. At least fifteen of Oscar’s family beamed love from the front pews. I was grateful for Oscar’s friendship with the Rev. Jim Keck and the generosity of First Plymouth Congregational Church. Their sanctuary became a place of wonder, in which we experienced "Unitarian High Church". The choir sounded so good in that space!

Thanks to Oscar for his vision of the ceremony. Julie Enersen designed the graphics and handled the invitations and orders of service. Christine Starr Davis made arrangements at First Plymouth. KK Munson shared her vision with the reception committee. Dorothy Ramsey kept us on track and produced the ingredient cards. Jo Brown arranged a lovely Saturday evening dinner for ministers and family. I thank coordinators: Jackie Kehl, in-home hospitality for ministers; Pam Wakeman, parking; Lindsay Bartlett, childcare; Barbara Pearson, ushers; Harry Heafer, church spit and polish day, and reception set-up; Jeanne Brooks, Penny Urwiler, reception; Jackie Egan, reception cleanup. I worked with the 95 of you, who responded to the Survey Monkey/RSVP. You stepped up to take on 89 tasks, and to bring 63 dishes of food!

I am in awe!
Board of Trustees Synopsis

From Linda R. Brown

As new board members, Denise DeBose, Dan Payzant, and Colleen Kadleck take their places at the table, we thank Keith McGuffey, Amy Birky and Kristi Wamstad Evans for their service to the Board. Officers this year are Linda Brown, president; Emily Cameron Shattil, vice-president; and Rich Little, secretary. The board appointed Dorothy Ramsey to succeed Duncan Case as treasurer, and Theresa Forsman, as vice-treasurer. Mark Shiffler stepped into Amy Birky’s role, as board representative to the Nominations Committee.

Colleen Kadleck and Michael Reinmiller will represent the board on a newly created task force to look at decisions we will need to make about how to represent our church and its mission with "outside signage". Contact Colleen or Michael if you have interest in working on this process.

Finally, I invite the people who attended General Assembly (GA) to write out your responses to GA. There are over 50 of us. What do we want to bring back to our congregation? What topics do we want to consider in Roundtable discussions? The board asks you to write fifty words about one topic from GA, which you want to see lifted up at the July 10, 6:30PM board meeting. Email that statement to lindar1brown@gmail.com by 7/5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY RGL CALENDAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool Class and Nursery Care are available every Sunday for younger Pre-K children in the Preschool Room.</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
<td>Summer Classes</td>
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<td>July 29</td>
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UU Gallery: Noyes Art Gallery Travel Show

For the months of July and August, our UCL Gallery will host the Noyes Art Gallery Travel Show. The Noyes Art Gallery is located in Lincoln’s Haymarket District at 119 South 9th Street. The Gallery features works by more than 100 artist members who show their work and volunteer their time to help operate the Gallery. The art work is diverse and varied: paintings, photographs, pottery, jewelry, fiber art and more!

The Noyes Art Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00AM until 5:00PM and on the first and third Friday evenings of every month from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. We hope that you will come by for a visit and bring your friends!

If you have questions about this Travel Show or are interested in purchasing one of the pieces on display, please contact the Noyes Art Gallery at 402.475.1061.
Green Corner

The Unitarian Church of Lincoln has a new Environmental Policy!

On May 8, 2018, The Board of Trustees adopted an Environmental Policy Statement, written by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Guided by the Unitarian Universalist seventh principle and our core values, we are committed to: (1) promote environmental sustainability within our congregation and in the greater community; (2) actively support a rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy; (3) conserve energy and natural resources; (4) use nontoxic and environmentally sound products and practices; (5) reduce, reuse and recycle. The policy statement includes general goals and specific actions.

Our intent is to promote these policies within our church and through our work in the community. The entire statement may be found on the church website unitarianlincoln.org. If you prefer hard copy of the Environmental Policy Statement, request it from the church office.

Educational Lecture

Thursday, July 19, 2018, 7:00PM • Auditorium

Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, UNL Entomologist, will talk about “Climate and Insects.” This lecture is co-sponsored by the Nebraska Conservation Education Fund and the Green Sanctuary Committee.

Wachiska Audubon Events

FREE Summer Potluck Picnic
Thursday, July 12 • 6:00PM • Spring Creek Prairie

Bring friends, a dish to share, and your own table service. Beverages provided. Short program by staff and prairie tour to follow. Check SCP website for directions, springcreekprairie.audubon.org.

FREE Field Trip to Nine-Mile Prairie
Saturday, July 14 • 8:30AM • Spring Creek Prairie

Call Carole at 402.475.9219 with questions. Check website at www.WachiskaAudubon.org, call the Wachiska office at 402.486.4846, or email office@WachiskaAudubon.org for details.

UUA Bookstore Highlight

Breathe and Be - A Book of Mindfulness Poems

Teaching mindfulness helps kids learn to stay calm, regulate their emotions, and appreciate the world around them.

With Breathe and Be, author Kate Coombs and illustrator Anna Emilia Laitinen team up to present a book of poetry and art for young readers to make mindfulness easy, natural, and beautiful.

Here is a book sure to delight parents and kids alike, blending lovingly illustrated nature imagery with elegant verse about living with awareness and inner peace.

Order online at www.uuabookstore.org $17.95
Showing up for Social Justice

From Jackie Kehl

In the past month, the Social Justice Committee
1) showed our support for Nebraska’s 3400 DACA recipients by attending and speaking at the city council meeting at which a resolution to support Nebraska’s DACA recipients was considered and
2) sponsored, along with Nebraskans for Peace and Nebraskans Against Gun Violence, a community-wide, bipartisan panel discussion: Next on Guns: How Can We Get Practical Changes After Parkland?

In addition to joining and contributing to local social justice organizations, the Social Justice Committee voted to join, along with First Unitarian Church of Omaha, the Nebraska chapter of Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME).

UUJME is a social justice organization affiliated with, but not supported by, the UUA that provides education and advocacy to work for a peaceful and just resolution of the Palestine-Israel conflict. Membership will help us broaden our perspective beyond local and national issues.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

ACLU SMART JUSTICE

Next meeting: September 4 • 7:00PM

Two women from the ACLU’s Smart Justice Project will join us for the forum from 7:00-7:30PM in the Auditorium. All are welcome to join us to learn about this project and then leave or join us for the business portion of the meeting.

ACLU SMART JUSTICE

www.aclu.org/issues/mass-incarceration/smart-justice/campaign-smart-justice

WANTED:

Coffee Volunteer Coordinator

From Kathy Disney

The current coffee coordinator is calling it quits! For the past few years, Kathy Disney has been the coordinator of our Sunday coffee volunteers and she is retiring from that position. As of September 1, Kathy will no longer perform that job. She would be very glad to talk to anyone curious about what the job entails. It is a good way to meet people and support an important part of the life of our community. Kathy can be reached at kedisney@hotmail.com or 403.560.0358.

UU Meditation Sangha

Summer Schedule

From LauraLee Woodruff

We will not meet in June or July, as LauraLee is involved with the Angels Theatre Company 4th annual First Flight Festival. In August we will meet only on the usual second Wednesday, August 8. Please plan to attend the Meditation Service planned for Sunday, July 15. Namaste.
Bridge Groups
Tuesday group:
Every Tuesday • 2:00PM
6300 A Street • 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 • July 27 • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • 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 • July 9 • 6:30PM
6300 A St • 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
Sunday, July 1 • 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
seeshells@mac.com

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
4th Tuesday • July 24 • 6:30PM
6300 A Street • Gallery
The LGBTQA 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
6300 A Street • Gallery
All UU Members and Friends are invited. No experience necessary.
Contact Reed Maly
402.570.3841

UMDOC “Unitarian Men Discussing Over Coffee”
New participants are welcome any time. Discussion topics vary. No meetings in July and
December. Visit us for more details or contact Duane Polzien
duaneep2000@yahoo.com

UU Meditation Sangha
2nd & 4th Wednesday • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Music Room
No meeting June or July. In August we will meet only on the usual second Wednesday,
August 8.
Please plan to attend the Meditation Service planned for
Sunday, July 15. Namaste.

UU Women Gathering
1st Saturday • July 7
2:00-3:30PM • Gallery
Topic: Creativity
Facilitator: Shelly Fowler
For info or location: Contact Marilyn 402.730.9483
Revdiva1@hotmail.com

Women’s Book Group
Every three weeks • 10:00AM
6300 A Street • Gallery
For more information, contact Diane Richards
dianemn2@gmail.com
July 14 - Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
August 4 - Beartown by Frederik Backman

Young Adults Gathering
2nd Sunday • July 8 • 7:00PM
6300 A Street • Gallery
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
6300 A Street • 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

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!
BOUQUETS OF THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO MAKE THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION A WELCOMING AND SUCCESSFUL ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT!

### Sunday Service Volunteers

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<th>July 1</th>
<th>July 8</th>
<th>July 15</th>
<th>July 22</th>
<th>July 29</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pulpit Decoration</strong></td>
<td>Karen Heafer</td>
<td>Linda Ager</td>
<td>Barbara Ellis</td>
<td>Molly Klocksin</td>
<td>Cindy Maly</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Greeters</strong></td>
<td>Mary Sommermeyer Amy Birky, Judy Hart</td>
<td>Mary Sommermeyer Charlotte Pierce Judy Hart</td>
<td>Amy Birky Marj Willeke Judy Hart</td>
<td>Martha Horvay Lee Manns Judy Hart</td>
<td>Gary Colvin Dorothy Ramsey Judy Hart</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coffee Hosts</strong></td>
<td>Kathy Disney</td>
<td>RGL Committee</td>
<td>Tim Johnson</td>
<td>Denise Debose Harris Lehl</td>
<td>George Tuck</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Trustees</strong></td>
<td>Denise DeBose</td>
<td>Denise DeBose</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
<td>Carol Kendrick, Elizabeth Meyers</td>
<td>Barbara &amp; Al Pearson</td>
<td>Les &amp; Lee Manns</td>
<td>Leona Braziel, Amy Birky</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Jackie Egan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Audio-Visual</strong></td>
<td>Don Pinkley</td>
<td>John Atkieson</td>
<td>Don Pinkley Linda Brown</td>
<td>Linda Brown</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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**Milestones, Millstones, and Stepping Stones**

A memorial was held for Ginny Gross on Friday, June 29. Memorial contributions may be sent in her name to Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, 5631 S 48th St #100, Lincoln, NE 68516

Jo Brown had hip surgery on June 28. She would enjoy cards sent to her home. She does not need visitors or food at this time.

We honored the life of Jonathan Werner on Saturday, June 30. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Ada Munson turned 94 at the end of May.

Please consult your directory for addresses and phone numbers. If you do not have a directory, please pick one up from the church office.

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**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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Bob Fuson, Interim Music Coordinator • worshiparts@unitarianlincoln.org
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Mary Sommermeyer, Special Vice Treasurer for Member Loans
Charles Coley, Program Council Chair
Stephanie Geery-Zink, Lincoln Unitarian Foundation President

**Church Office**
6300 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

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

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

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_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._