

## COMMITTEE & ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

*This document provides short summaries of the various activities and committees listed in the Unitarian Church of Lincoln's Talents & Interests Survey. Please use it if you need more information about any of the items listed in the survey before you respond with your interest level. Contact any member of the Membership Umbrella committee or the office if you need more information.*

### EXISTING ADULT ACTIVITIES

**6300 Club:** Getting acquainted by participating in three potluck dinners with random guest lists. Each year there is a sign-up period in the fall. You can sign-up as an individual or as a couple. The organizer then pairs you with 2-3 other pairs and you schedule potluck meals at people's homes. A great way to meet new people and enjoy delicious food in small groups.

**A Street Band:** Providing folk, jazz, and rock music for church services and social events.

**Adult Game Night:** Keeping our minds and souls healthy by playing games and socializing.

**Bridge Groups:** Spending time together and challenging our brains at two levels of difficulty: Intermediate and Advanced.

**Coffeehouse:** Monthly night of board games for adults and kids. Open to all individuals. Preceded by PFLAG/UU Potluck.

**Earth Centered Activities:** These are earth based religious activities held at church by an outside group. All are welcome to join in these activities.

**Friendly Faces:** Friendly Faces is an informal visitation program that reaches out to older church members, especially those who experience more difficulty getting out for any variety of reasons.

**Annual Garage Sale:** Organizing and helping with the annual rummage sale. Everyone is welcome to contribute items.

**UU Flute Ensemble:** Sharing love of music through regular practices and occasional performances.

**UU Meditation Sangha:** Uncovering hidden stillness within us through meditation and Buddhist-centered readings and discussion. This group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the Music Room.

**UMDOC (Unitarian Men Discussing Over Coffee):** New participants are welcome any time. Discussion topics vary. Meets monthly, no meetings in July and December.

**Men's Potluck:** Enjoying good food and great conversation in a low-key monthly gathering.

**Newcomer Chat:** Meet with visitors and friends in the Library on the first Sunday of each month to watch and discuss a 10-minute film.

**Open Circle Groups:** Building connections through ongoing small-group meetings and discussions. These groups meet at various times and locations each month. Some are organized around a particular interest (example: Parent's group) while others are a diverse groups of adults who discuss chosen topics of interest. You can visit any Open Circle group up to two times in a row before deciding whether or not you would like to participate monthly.

**PLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays):** The LGBTQA 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](http://www.pflagcornhusker.org)

**Sorensen Lecture:** Honoring the legacy of lifelong UU C.A. Sorensen by facilitating an annual presentation by a distinguished outside speaker.

**Tai Chi Classes:** Moving meditatively to reduce stress and promote serenity. All UU Members and Friends are invited. No experience necessary. Teacher: Jim Pratt.

**Way Station Concert Series:** Way Station Concerts provide an oasis for touring musicians and is hosted at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. Providing a venue for traveling musicians whose music reflects our values.

**Winter Lecture Series:** Presenting a set of lectures each year focusing on an international theme.

**Women's Book Group:** Participating in informal discussions once a month about books which enlighten, educate and entertain.

**UU Women Gathering:** Gathering to learn and explore in small groups with rotating leaders and topics. Meets monthly, typically on a Saturday.

**Young Adult Group:** Group of UUs and friends who are under 40. Meets monthly for discussions, activities, and socializing.

**Zen Meditation Group:** We are a small group of UUs who meditate at church each week in the Music Room.

## POTENTIAL ADULT ACTIVITIES

**Adult RGL:** Workshops and events to strengthen and expand religious learning for adults. They will occur sporadically and will be publicized as they are scheduled. There is also potential to develop a committee to help grow this area of our church.

**Singles Group:** If there is interest, a group of single UUs and friends could be formed.

## EXISTING ADULT COMMITTEES/GROUPS

**Annual Auction:** Organizing the annual auction, which is a fundraising event for the annual budget. All members are welcome to contribute items/events to be sold and to participate in the event. This event is for and offered by church members and friends to raise extra funds for the church. The bulk of the auction may be services that are auctioned such as dinners prepared by church members, window washing, preparing a garden for planting, women's tea. Anything that you would like to offer to help our church thrive.

**Art Gallery:** Gracing the fellowship space with work of local artists during monthly shows.

**A.V. Committee:** Run audio visual equipment during Sunday services, work with office to cover audio visual responsibilities for guest speakers, visitors, OLLIE classes, etc., update and maintain audio visual equipment, and provide training on the use of AV equipment.

**Big Idea Task Force (Partnering):** For the next three to five years, we pledge our talents, resources and building to partner to meet needs in the Lincoln community, protect our environment and promote peace and social justice. This group is still in the early stages of exploring how they can encourage partnering in our congregation so ideas are welcome.

**Bookstore:** Community-building and fundraising through donation and purchase of used books. The bookstore is located on the southwest end of the building (closest to A Street, near the fireplace). The committee sorts through book donations, organizes the bookstore space, and helps promote what is available for sell.

**Building Committee:** Creating and maintaining a facility that reflects the vitality and stewardship of our newly renovated church home. This committee organizes periodic cleanups of the building, completes specific projects to upgrade and maintain the physical space, and helps make recommendations on the overall maintenance and facilities of our church.

**Denominational Affairs:** Encouraging participation in activities and events sponsored by the MidAmerica Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association and increasing congregational awareness of issues relating to the greater denomination.

**Finance Team:** Team of individuals who monitor the financial activities of the church. Includes several set team members, such as members of the staff, board president, and treasurer, but can also use additional volunteers who care about the financial stewardship of our church.

**Green Sanctuary Committee:** Encouraging personal lifestyle changes and strengthening connections between spiritual practice and environment consciousness through education and direct action. Our congregation is a [certified green sanctuary congregation](#).

**Grounds Committee:** Beautifying our landscaping and keeping our outdoor spaces spruced up through periodic clean-ups. You can participate by volunteering for clean-up days, by adopting a particular portion of the church grounds for regular maintenance, or as a leader who helps with long-term grounds management and planning.

**Kitchen Clean-Up Crew:** This group helps with cleaning, organizing and enhancing this useful and beautiful shared space which serves as a hub for many church activities. They typically meet at the church on Monday mornings to clean the kitchen and discuss ongoing needs for that space, while also enjoying lunch and conversation together. This group keeps the congregation trained on how to use and care for kitchen equipment and alerts volunteers and church leaders about kitchen needs.

**LGBTQA Welcoming Committee:** Addressing the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender people at all levels of congregational life.

**Lincoln Unitarian Foundation:** Managing monetary gifts which enhance our church building and ensure a liberal religious presence in Lincoln.

**Library:** Maintaining a bit of history and providing educational opportunities. The library is the small space to the north of the entrance to the sanctuary. The library committee maintains our congregation's collection of books, which are available for check-out.

**Membership Umbrella:** Providing a welcoming environment for members, visitors, and friends via a Sunday Welcome Table, social events, education, and after-church chats.

**Memorial Service Assistance:** Church members and friends who provide the services of hosting an after the memorial service gathering in the Gallery room where refreshments, coffee and tea are served. The assistants take care of setting out the food, making the coffee and tea, arranging flowers for the tables and cleaning up following the reception. There is always a designated person available to coordinate these efforts.

**Office Dazzlers:** This group supports the ongoing administrative work of the church. They work with the office staff to help with organizational tasks, such as printing weekly bulletins and newsletters. Typically meets during weekdays. Volunteers from this group also fill-in on Sundays when paid staff is on leave.

**UU Pantry Garden:** Cultivating produce to share with local individuals and families who experience food insecurity. No gardening experience required. Need volunteers both for garden maintenance and for helping promote the garden and get food to those in need.

**Pastoral Care Associates:** Supporting members of our congregation in times of celebration, transition or crisis with gifts of time, food and care.

**Receptions Assistance:** Would serve the same functions as “Memorial Service Assistance”, but for different events such as wedding receptions, birthday parties, etc..

**Religious Growth & Learning (RGL):** Essentially Sunday school and other youth programming. There is an RGL Committee that oversees these activities and meetings regularly with the Religious Growth & Learning Director. There are also numerous opportunities to volunteer with children & youth programming, from storytelling to classroom instructors and assistance, to one-time volunteer events throughout the year.

**Social Justice Committee:** Collaborating with other local groups to monitor social issues and to undertake actions inspired by our church's values. Informing members about legislative and local social justice issues and opportunities to participate.

**Sunday Coffee Services:** Enhancing the Sunday morning experience by serving beverages after the service. You can sign up as an individual or with a group of friends. Training is available as well as detailed written instructions. A great way to meet people and help everyone enjoy social hour after Sunday service. Training is available.

**Organizing Coffee Volunteers:** This volunteer (or volunteers) organizes Sunday coffee services by tracking and encouraging volunteers to sign-up to serve coffee. Requires good organizational skills and a willingness to be creative in encouraging volunteer sign-up to ensure there is coffee each Sunday. Training is available.

**Sunday Hospitality Team (Ushers):** Welcome people as they enter the sanctuary on Sundays. Help during service by seating people, passing the collection plate, and handing out bulletins. Training is available.

**Sunday Hospitality Team (Greeters):** Welcome people as they enter the building on Sundays. Help direct people through the building and connect with visitors and newcomers. Training is available.

**Sunday Hospitality Team (Pulpit Decorations):** Provide flowers/decor to decorate the pulpit on Sundays. You can sign up to do this at random or to commemorate someone or some event.

**Visibility Team:** Letting people know who we are, what we do and where to find us. Public Relations & Advertising.

**Worship Associates:** Meets monthly to aid in providing meaningful and aesthetically pleasing worship experiences and celebrations; assist the minister, as invited, in creating, coordinating, and/or leading Sunday worship services; create/coordinate/lead Sunday worship on lay-led Sundays; and share in the formulation and implementation of worship policy as informed by church members and the minister. There are many important activities involved in making this committee successful, and not all require public speaking.

**Unitarian Choir:** Rehearsing on two Wednesdays and then singing four-part music together at one Sunday service a month.

**Women's Choir:** Lifting up the voices of girls and women (generally ages 12 and up) at one or two services a year.

**Hand Chime Ensemble:** Group that gathers to play hand chimes and give performances during church services and events.

**Food Pantry:** Collecting non-perishable foods for our neighborhood pantry hosted at Eastridge Presbyterian Church.

**Fresh Start Dinners:** Cooking up tasty food and sitting down to dine with women in transition. Monthly event.

**Interfaith Housing:** Joining with St. Paul Methodist Church and First-Plymouth Church to offer low-income housing just west of the Capitol.

## **EXISTING CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**Children's Choir:** Offered to children and youth during special services such as our Water and Flower Communion or Stranger Share Our Fire service. Children will rehearse beforehand or during a 'one hour' before service and sing during our all ages service. Sign up for parent emails by registering your children or watch our newsletter for more details.

**Coming of Age:** is offered to high school students. Students are paired with an adult mentor to explore what being a UU means to them. Students follow a syllabus and curriculum and have the option of becoming members of the church following graduation from the program. Contact the Director of Religious Growth and Learning for more info.

**Ingathering Sundays:** Volunteer to lead or assist with Sundays when there are no regular RGL classes. On these Sundays, all K-Middle School youth participate in activities together during the service.

**Our Whole Lives (OWL):** is an age-appropriate sexuality education curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. OWL promotes sexual health based on guidelines of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. The RGL Committee is committed to offering a revolving calendar of OWL programming under the direction of trained OWL Coordinators, Please check our church newsletter or website for details.

**Religious Growth & Education Classes:** Sunday school programming for children and youth. Occurs during Sunday worship service.

**Storytelling:** Reading stories and/or leading conversations during worship services or in individual classrooms.

**Summer Camp:** In the past, this camp has been offered for K-5th graders in July for for days from 9-12 Tues-Fri for two different weeks. Our past themes have been Harry Potter Camp and Cosmos Camp. There are likely to be changes to our camp in coming years. Stay tuned to our newsletter for more details.

**UU Pen Pals/Secret Friends:** A fun annual activity that allows adults and children to connect across the generations in an annual sharing of notes and small gifts with a soon-to-be-discovered friend. Sign-up is typically in January.

**Youth in Action:** A youth group of middle and high school students from 8th-12th grade. A social group with a focus on justice activities and volunteerism. Meets Wednesday nights October-May.

**Youth Musicians:** Offering vocal and instrumental talent during various intergenerational services.