

Unconditional Love
**Grosse Pointe
Unitarian Church**
Radical Inclusivity



*Welcome! You have found an oasis of liberal religious and spiritual exploration serving
the Grosse Pointes and the surrounding east side communities.*

Reverend Dr. Alexander Riegel, Minister

December 2022

January 2023 Newsletter Deadline

Mark your calendars and please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by

Wednesday, December 21st

Submit items to the newsletter email address: newslettergpc@gmail.com

Worship services will continue to be provided online using Zoom.

It is recommended that you join early and use a laptop, desktop with a webcam or you may download the Zoom app on your tablet or smart phone via the App store. We also request when joining the online session limiting to one connection per household.

The Sunday worship service Zoom link will be sent by email on Friday afternoons, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th .

UNFAMILIAR WITH ZOOM? - DO THIS IN ADVANCE OF SUNDAY

- Sign onto zoom meeting link 15 minutes prior to service.
- Bring a chalice or a small candle so you can light the chalice when we do.
- Have the order of service handy - either electronically or in printed form, so you can follow along with the service.
- Have your preferred refreshments and hot beverages ready to enjoy during the service.
- Enjoy the service and provide email feedback to us on how this option is working for you.

**It remains a requirement that all in-person attendees
are up to date on vaccination (bivalent booster).**

Upcoming Services

December 4, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Intergenerational Service on Peace"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel and Julie Artis D.R.E.

Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

In the midst of this holiday season, the world needs peace as much as ever. Join us for this intergenerational service on the theme of peace as we explore what the Apostle Paul called "the peace of God that passeth all understanding."

December 11, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Potpourri"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Carol Guither

Dr. Riegel will be returning to the potpourri theme this Sunday. These potpourri themes are reflections by Dr. Riegel on a variety of topics (usually three per sermon). This service will include reflections on ethics, time, and Beethoven.

December 18, 2022

10:30 AM

Annual Holiday Pageant: *"Do You Want to Hold the Baby?"*

Worship Leader: Julie Artis D.R.E.

Worship Associate: Dr. Alexander Riegel

This year our RE students have been studying the Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This year's holiday pageant is entitled, *"Would You Like to Hold the Baby?"*. It is the retelling of the Nativity story. Our students are enjoying preparing for their pageant with happiness and joy. Come, let our students guide you through a morning of happiness during this special season.

Saturday

December 24, 2022

6:00 PM

Annual Christmas Eve Service

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer

Christmas in the round is a long standing, cherished tradition at GPUC. If you haven't experienced it yet, please plan to join us! If you're an "old timer," you know what a wonderful way this is to kick-off your Christmas Eve. So, come indulge with us in the usual seasonal comforts: Readings, Homily, Music, and "Silent Night."

[Please note that there will not be a Sunday morning service on December 25th.]

January 1, 2023

10:30 AM

New Year's Day service: "Remembrance and Renewal"

Worship Leader: Chuck Palmer.

Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

Please join Meghan Boomhower and Chuck Palmer on this holiday, and enjoy some brief descriptions of some of the people we lost in 2022, contemplate the Jewish concept of forgiveness found in the Yom Kippur holiday, and consider how to move forward in our lives in 2023. We'll sing some familiar hymns and be entertained by our own piano virtuoso, Joseph Palazzolo. Football games do not begin until noon, so get yourself out of bed and start the New Year right!

Can't make Sunday Service?

Recordings are made available on our website.

Visit www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services to watch at any time!

Alexander's Meander



It seems that for a long time now I have invariably remarked, in newsletter articles, during sermons, and in casual conversations about how difficult life has been for us all in recent years. We've all been met with personal challenges and our beloved community has also been met with challenges, mostly related to our pandemic.

Sometimes stress can be so persistent and overwhelming that we simply don't see the light at the end of the tunnel. We can even lose faith that we'll eventually see it. I know my faith has recently faltered...

So, Kimi and I headed north to spend some time together over the Thanksgiving holiday, a chance to "get away from it all" and reset. Northern Michigan often works this wonder and Thanksgiving weekend was no exception.

It was a simple moment... Blurry eyed in the morning, staring out through the bedroom window, past the evergreens, my eyes met the rays of the rising Sun. That golden orb casts its rays across the gray sky, through the evergreen, into the frost on the windowpane, to meet my mind.

That simple instant in time, that aesthetic wonder, pierced my psyche and brought solace to my soul. It was such a simple moment - but I felt "born again!"

This experience reminded me of one of my favorite songs by the folk musician Ellis Paul, *This Morning I Am Born Again*. I'm providing a link to this song with great hope that you'll take the four requisite minutes to listen to it. Perhaps it will remind you to look for those simple instances in time that might make you feel "born again!". *Really, it's worth four minutes...* (You may need to cut and paste this URL into your browser.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sHXS66HErc>

And, Ellis' web page: <https://www.ellispaul.com>

Namaste,

Alex

Religious Education News



On December 18, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. our students from the GPUC Religious Education program will provide a holiday program called ***Would You Like to Hold the Baby?*** The students have been studying Abrahamic Faiths and the first faith is Judaism, then Christianity, and Islam. The program is the retelling of the Nativity story. Whatever our beliefs, the holidays provide us with our own rituals to celebrate. Our students are enjoying preparing for their pageant with happiness and joy. Come on Sunday, December 18th and let our students guide you through a morning of happiness during this special season.

We are asking for donations of cookies, cheese, crackers, and fruit for us after the program snacks for the whole congregation. Also, Jr/Sr students will have a holiday table of gifts that you may want to purchase for a loved one.

Please bring in or drop off new mittens, hats, gloves and scarves to put on our Mitten Tree located in the back of the church. We also look for gently used children's books. We give them to an elementary school in Detroit. We need them by December 18, 2022, the day of our Holiday Pageant, ***Would You Like to Hold the Baby?*** Let's give the gift of warmth and reading!



Dates to remember

- **December 4th** - rehearsal for play in RE wing
- **December 5th** - RE Committee meeting on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
- **December 11th** - right after church, practice in the church for the pageant
- **December 18th at 9:15 a.m.** - for all students to report to the sanctuary to practice before the church service. Bring in snacks for whole congregation.

My gift to all of you for this season is Gandhi's peace prayer.

I offer you peace
I offer you friendship
I offer you love
I see your beauty
I hear your needs
I feel your feelings
My wisdom comes from a higher source
I honor that source in you
Let us work together.

May you all have a safe and wonderful holiday season.
I am honored to be your Director of Religious Education.
Happy Holidays!

*Julie Artis,
Director of Religious Education*

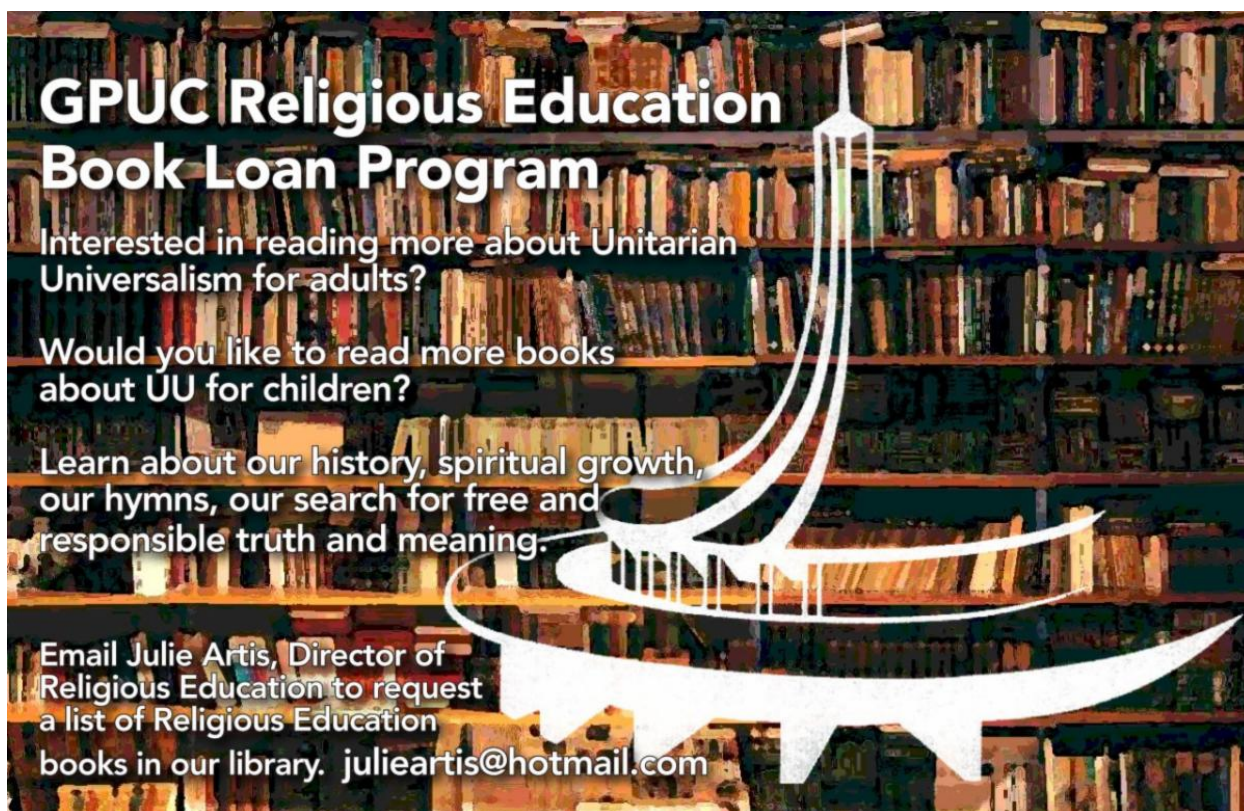
GPUC Religious Education Book Loan Program

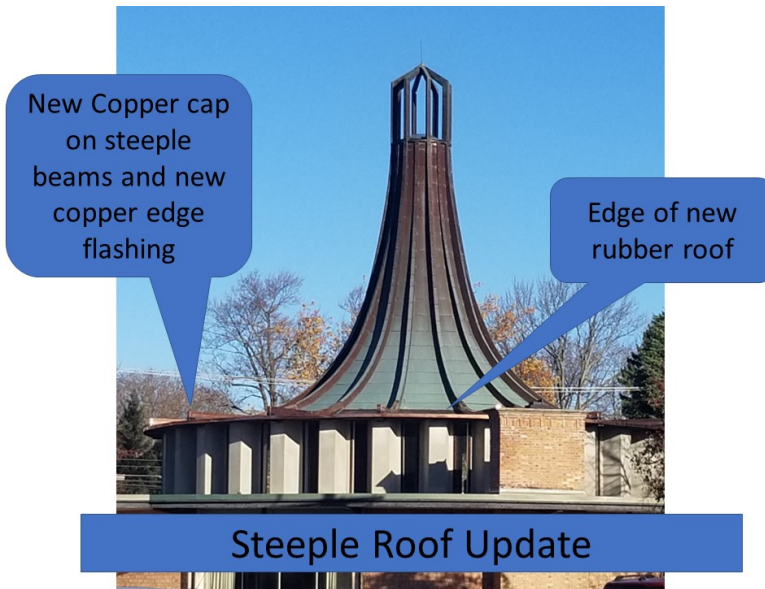
Interested in reading more about Unitarian
Universalism for adults?

Would you like to read more books
about UU for children?

Learn about our history, spiritual growth,
our hymns, our search for free and
responsible truth and meaning.

Email Julie Artis, Director of
Religious Education to request
a list of Religious Education
books in our library. julieartis@hotmail.com





GPUC Steeple Roof Update

On your next visit in our sanctuary, gaze up at the upper windows and ledge area. The buckets, which have been a part of our sanctuary for the past 30 plus years, have been removed! The steeple roofing project, which has been ongoing during the month of October, is complete.

From the outside of the church, you will see new copper flashing around the steeple edge along with new copper cladding on the lower section of the steeple beams.

The steeple roofing project involved removing all of the original steeple copper roofing material that was used on the flat section of the steeple roof and beams up to a rise height on the steeple roof of about two feet. The original copper roofing material was replaced with a rubber roof and rigid insulation. The roof and the beams were sealed with the rubber roofing material. A decorative copper cap was added to the outer surface of the roof beams on top of the rubber roof to blend in with the remaining steeple copper cladded roof beams.

With time, the new copper will turn brown in color and match the existing copper roof. Due to the roof angle, the black rubber roof is only visible from a distance. You are able to start to see the edge of the steeple black roofing material from the back half of the parking lot.

During the copper roof tear off, several outer sections of the roof were found to be wet with rotting wood. Fortunately, the wood rot had not progressed to the point that required the replacement of the steeple roof planking boards. The wood rot was treated to kill the rot fungi and dried out. The affected roof sections were reinforced with an outer layer of plywood before the insulation and rubber roof was applied.

With the sanctuary roof buckets a thing of the past, we can look forward to a dry steeple roof and no leaks during the next rain storm.

Thank you to the GPUC congregation for your support of the steeple roof project.

*Regards,
Mark Franchett
GPUC Building Maintenance Chair*

**Save
the
Date**

All Are Welcome!

The Adult Religious Education
committee invites the congregation
to join in a celebratory virtual
New Year's Toast via Zoom

**Friday, January 6, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Bring:

- your favorite beverage
- a poem, joke or inspiring words
- Celebrate our GPUC community!

Registration details to come



Ideas Wanted!

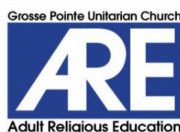
The Adult Religious Education Committee needs your help. Tell us what you want to see on the ARE schedule this Fall. What kinds of events would you attend? What programs would attract more folks to GPUC? Is it movie discussions, lectures,

tours, book talks, writing workshops, fieldtrips? You tell us, and we'll try to make it happen!

Please let us have your suggestions by Friday, June 3. Kindly forward ideas to

Rev. Alex and Jerry Herron (chair of the ARE Committee): alexgpuc@gmail.com;

Jerry.Herron@wayne.edu.



**Book Discussion Group News
Tuesday, January 17th, at 6 pm**



The Book Group will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17 at 6 pm via Zoom. Carol Guither will lead the discussion of Ruth Hogan's *The Keeper of Lost Things*. The Zoom invitation will be sent the day before the meeting. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Juli Moore (jdmoore1415@gmail.com).

Best wishes to all for a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season!

All are welcome.

THE GROSSE POINTE COMMUNITY CHORUS

presents

Holiday Memories



Music Director Joseph Palazzolo's Farewell Concert
featuring selections performed from 2009 to 2022

Accompanied by Ron Pietrantoni with Violinist Sonia Lee

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2022 at 3 pm

St. Clare of Montefalco Church
Mack & Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park

Tickets

\$18 adults in advance | \$20 adults at door

\$5 children 12 years & under

Tickets Available At

Moehring Woods Florists | 20923 Mack Avenue | GPW | 313.882.9732

Posterity Art & Framing | 17005 Kercheval Avenue | GP | 313.884.8105

www.grossepointecommunitychorus.org



Detroit Concert Choir
Michael A. Mitchell, Artistic Director



The Spirit of Christmas

With the Detroit Concert Choir

Share in the spirit and celebration of the Christmas season with traditional favorites, new discoveries and music that spans the ages

With Christa Grix, Harpist



Saturday, December 10, 2022 - 7:30 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
26998 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak

Sunday, December 11, 2022 - 3:00 pm
Grosse Pointe Memorial Church
16 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms

Sunday, December 18, 2022 - 3:00 pm
Sweetest Heart of Mary Church
4440 Russell Street, Detroit

Individual Tickets - \$20 Senior - \$18 Student - \$10
Group Rates for 10 or more

Contact Information: (313) 882-0118 dcc@detroitconcertchoir.org
Tickets may be ordered online at detroitconcertchoir.org

Weekly Gentle Yoga

THURSDAYS 4:30-5:30PM
(EST, US and Canada)

This is a 60 minute gentle yoga session that occurs every Thursday from 4:30 - 5:30pm with Carol Guither virtually via Zoom.

Session theme will be **announced weekly.**

If you have a mat, blocks and a strap (or necktie) that is helpful but you don't need anything



except a clean space to lie, sit and stand on.

Please make sure you are honoring your own level of activity and flexibility. Make any adjustments you need. The yoga "mantra" always is "honor your own body". If it's not comfortable, don't do it.

Cost will be \$5.00 per session, and participants can either pay cash/check in person for each session, or pay by the Venmo app. Please [click here](#) for Carol's Venmo information.

If you need help signing up for Venmo, please contact Ameera in the office and she will walk you through the sign up process.

Note: Venmo is a subsidiary of PayPal, and requires a credit card number for the transaction.

Thursday, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29



How to find great films to watch and have fun along the way

As the weather is getting colder and many of us are looking for a good movie to watch...here's a link that may have some ideas of films you can enjoy. Bored with Hollywood and Netflix? Becoming an adventurous and informed explorer of the cinema world is in everyone's grasp.

https://psyche.co/guides/how-to-find-great-films-to-watch-and-have-fun-along-the-way?utm_source=instagram



GPUC Lay Pastoral Committee



Holiday Caring

Compassion • Support • Assistance

Have a Safe, Enjoyable Holiday Season



The Committee offers hope and help to our members through empathetic compassionate support, helping hands, and caring friendship. Please contact the committee chairs, Ameera or Reverend Alex if you are in need of support.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Debbie Connelly

Co-Chair: Lynn Rehahn

Margo Bishop
Susie Boynton
Karin Garrett
Susan Hartz
Lynn Baker-Hunter

JoAnn Kelly
Linda Lawrence
Mary Morshead
Kathleen Ruhl
Janet Weber



Caring Hands Up



Are you in need of minor assistance with things around the house?

To expand our help to the congregation, we are beginning a partnership with the Religious Education Program to provide you with a student whose additional helping hands will be able to assist you with projects around the house that may be too hard for you to tackle on your own.

Kinds of projects:

- Yard Work
- Small chores around the home
- Errands
- Lifting or carrying boxes from one location to another
- Help with your iPhone or Apps

A rate of \$20.00 per hour, in addition to keeping you safe, these students can earn funds to defray the costs of their Boston trip or other needs.

Contact Debbie Connelly by email or phone. She will put you in touch with Julie Artis, who will arrange a student to assist you with your project.

The GPUC Lay Pastoral Committee offers hope and help to our members through empathetic compassionate support, helping hands and caring friendship. Please contact the committee chairs, Ameera or Reverend Alex if you need support.

Committee Chair: Debbie Connelly Co-Chair: Lynn Rehahn

The passing of a GPUC friend, Jim Moeller

Long-time friend of GPUC, Jim Moeller, died on October 20th. Avid sailor and family man, he was predeceased by his former wife, Myra. Sons Thomas and Andrew (a UU minister in Bangor Maine) had a grave-side service on November 30th at 11 AM in Lexington, MI at St. Dem's Cemetery. Plans are to celebrate Jim's life and legacy next spring with a memorial service at Crescent Sail Club in Grosse Pointe Farms. Our hearts go out to Thomas and Andrew, two fine young men who grew up very actively involved in the life of GPUC.

RESALE SHOP NEWS!!!

Looking for some great gifts at reasonable prices? Look no further than the Shop in the Annex – GPUC's Resale Shop! We have spectacular bargains for all your hard-to-shop-for family and friends. Come see what's new and wonderful on Wednesdays from 10 am- 3 pm.



The Shop will be closed December 28th and January 4th for the holidays.

The GPUC Resale Shop is looking for a church member to act as a third person to share the weekly leadership responsibilities now handled by co-chairs Margo Bishop and Malo Villareal. This position includes responsibility for opening and closing The Shop on Wednesdays, evaluating incoming donations and consignments, assigning work to volunteers, pricing merchandise, and clearing the work room at the end of the day.

For more information and to respond to this unique opportunity to help our church, please contact Margo Bishop (contact info in the church directory) or visit The Shop on Wednesday between 9 am and 3 pm. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Shop has a record amount of merchandise and would like to remind all donors that **weekly donations are limited to two small boxes OR two small bags**.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season!

***Check out our very own Ameera looking fabulous in her Resale Shop fashions!
We are the friendliest Shop in town!***



Giving Made Easy Thanks to Breeze!

Whether you are looking to pay toward your pledge, register for RE or just making a donation to the church, Breeze makes donating so easy that you can do it from the comfort of your couch.

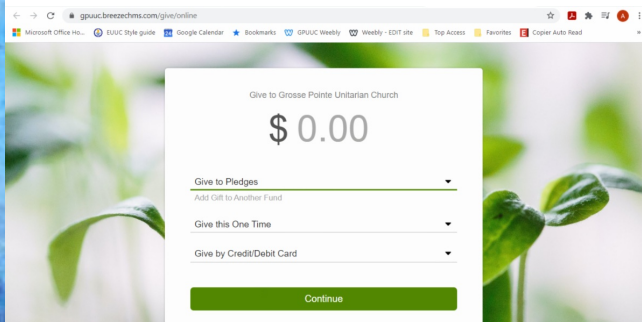
Breeze's checkout module gives you the options of donating using **Credit/Debit Cards or an ACH Payment directly from your bank account**.

Upon checking out, **Breeze will give you the option to cover the processing fee**. The processing fee will provide you with credit towards your total tax-deductible giving for the year and will help us retain every bit of your donation.

Another awesome feature of using Breeze is that you can set up recurring transactions so that you never have to worry about falling behind on your pledge!

If you have any questions about Breeze or how to get started with Automatic Payments, please feel free to reach out to Ameera via email at officegpuc@gmail.com.

Thank you!



Click Here To Give Now!

Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

Leaves are changing, pumpkin spice is everywhere, and we've already had our first snow. Fall has definitely arrived. But along with falling temps, we are experiencing rising costs for almost everything. If you have a bit to share, please consider putting a few extra items in your shopping cart for our GPUC Food Sharing. If shopping is not your thing, we would love to gratefully accept a monetary donation so we can buy perishables such as produce, bread, eggs, and milk. You can bring donations of nonperishables or cash/check (made out to the church with "Crossroads" in the memo) on Sundays or any time our office is open.

Our donations are always greatly appreciated by the staff and clients! Happy Fall!

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.

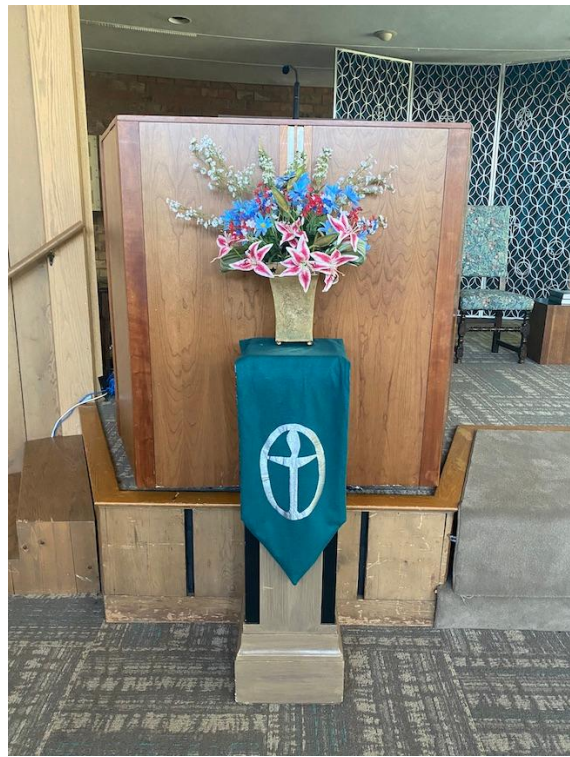
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Sunday Morning Flowers

Now that we are having in-person services, we are resuming having flowers to add to the ambience of the Sanctuary on Sunday morning.

We welcome donations for flowers on Sunday mornings. Take a moment to recognize or honor someone dear or to commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. You can make arrangements to bring your own flowers or a monetary donation and someone from the Flower Committee will purchase flowers and make a beautiful arrangement. Please use the insert in the Sunday order of service or contact the church office and sign-up for a Sunday or two.

If you have questions, please feel free to email or call the church office at officegpuc@gmail.com or (313) 881-0420. Thank you for sharing your remembrances of special occasions and important people in your life.



CHURCH HISTORY UPDATE

GPUC historian Janet Weber is in the process of updating the church history published in 2013. She asks that *if you have items of current or historical church interest or you or a family member of the church has received notice in local papers or magazines, please pass them on. Place in the historians mailbox in the church office or mail to her.* She will gladly take current or past information.

Unitarian Universalist Ministry For Earth Events



Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is excited to host a winter concert fundraiser for Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, **Monday, December 5th, (8 pm ET/7 pm CT/6 pm MT/5 pm PT)** — with the amazing musicians Karishma Gottfried, Mark David Buckles, & Matt Meyer from Sanctuary Boston!

We are so excited to host Sanctuary Boston for a concert & special dialogue with UU Ministry for Earth's Dr. Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert!

[Click to Register to Attend the Virtual Concert](#)

Evergreen: A Solstice Service



Let's celebrate sacred possibilities! UU Ministry for Earth is excited to invite you and your communities to our second annual Solstice celebration, "Evergreen: A Winter Solstice Service." Join us for an evening of music, reflection, meditation, and spiritual grounding hosted on Zoom **Wednesday, December 21 at 5 pm PT/ 6 pm MT/ 7 pm CT/ 8 pm ET**. Even in heartache times, we can connect and be galvanized for the present we live in, and the future we seek.

Movements for justice needs moments of deep presence and connection. Let's connect and be present for work today and to come. We hope to see you then!

[RSVP for UUMFE's Annual Solstice Service](#)

Earn Money for Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church



□ Kroger rewards support GPUC

Join the 32 households who currently support GPUC by shopping at Kroger. This activity earns around \$500 a year and once enrolled in KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS it is an easy way to help. **Thanks to those who have enrolled.** Check the bottom of your receipt the next time you shop for the message reassuring you that Kroger is donating to GPUC.

Kroger Community Rewards gives to GPUC - enroll at any time!
Our organization number is: FF794

Thanks, Janet Weber

FREE Grief Support Offering



Grief: Releasing Pain, Remembering Love & Finding Meaning

David Kessler is one of the leaders in Grief work in the counseling field. He started a free private online grief group for so many who are isolated during the pandemic and not able to reach out and get the grief support they need. There are live sessions and amazing guests so check them out and feel free to join the free group at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DavidKessler/>. You can also catch him on Instagram @iamdavidkessler and through his amazing podcast Healing with David Kessler on Spotify. <https://grief.com/podcasts/>.

Tender Hearts grief support group <https://www.davidkesslertraining.com/tenderhearts>.

Additional grief support: If anyone needs grief support due to cancer, here is a local link to get set up in a virtual program right now with Gilda's Club Metro Detroit.

Photo by Milada Vigerova on Unsplash

Contact information:
Rebekah Agnew, LLPC
Gilda's Club Metro Detroit: Lake House Location
An affiliate of the Cancer Support Community
Program Manager
Email: ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org

Contact Information

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