

*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*

## January 2023

### February 2023 Newsletter Deadline

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

**Saturday, January 21st**

Submit items to the newsletter email address: [newsletterguc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletterguc@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, January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.**

### **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

January 8, 2023

10:30 AM

**Sermon:** *"My Easy God Is Gone"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Maurya Kay

Dr. Riegel will begin this new year with a three-part sermon series intended to ground us more deeply in our own Unitarian Universalist tradition. He begins with this sermon ("My Easy God Is Gone"), in which he speaks about the challenge of walking the UU path absent a prescribed theology. In other words, he will address the question of how a religious tradition devoid theological prescription can offer us meaning in life. **NOTE – This would be a good sermon to which to invite family and friends you think may take to our UU tradition.**

---

**January 15, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"...if you only walk long enough."*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Chuck Palmer

Returning to "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" as a metaphor for life, Dr. Riegel will speak about the challenges Alice faced in her sojourn through wonderland, comparing the nonsensical world of Wonderland to our own. He will then pose (and answer) the questions, where in Wonderland did Alice find a sense of belonging, and, where in our world do we find a sense of belonging?

---

**January 22, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"A Link in the Chain"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Carol Guither

"Chain" is a powerful metaphor on many levels. It can stand for strength, bondage, lineage, etc. Dr. Riegel will speak about what it means to be a "link in a chain." He will further pose the question, what does it mean for GPUC to be a "link in a chain"? What does this mean relative to our larger Association? Our children? Our theological heritage?

---

**January 29, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"Rebaptizing the Logos"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Michelle Scobie

The Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche used the term "rebaptize" to discuss the manner in which the meanings of words and other signifiers (e.g., symbols or music) change through time. By "rebaptizing" something, that word or thing is given new/different/original meaning than the meaning we have heretofore ascribed to it. Dr. Riegel will suggest that the practice of

“rebaptizing” can be a powerful action, as pertains to the N-word, the American flag, the swastika, etc.

**Can't make Sunday Service?  
Recordings are made available on our website.  
Visit [www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services](http://www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services) to watch at any time!**

### Alexander's Meander



I've been livin' on the digital edge these past few years. I haven't backed up my hard drive since the pandemic began, which, as experience has taught me, is a disaster waiting to happen! So I've decided to get to that project over the holidays and while doing so, purge old files I no longer need. In doing so, I've discovered some pretty good sermons from the days when I used to write them out, word for word. I've also run across a sermon based on a few bullet points, which I did at GPUC not too long ago, and which I rather like. The remainder of this Meander is about one of the bullet points in that sermon.

You may even recall that sermon... in which I talked about our unconscious tendency to live in obeisance to the biographical narrative of our past. In simpler terms, “I've always been such and such a type of scoundrel, so I have to continue be the same such and such a type of scoundrel today as I've always been.” Mind you, this is, I submit, our *unconscious* tendency and helps explain why personalities become so predictable over time – and why change is difficult.

I also suggested in that sermon (here's the bullet point) that at any time we can make a conscious choice not to be that same scoundrel we've always been. In other words, at any given point in time we can abandon our unconscious obeisance to the biographical narrative of our past and start writing our future biographical narrative based upon *the different self we would like to become in the future*. After all, while the pages of our past narrative are already writ, the future pages of our narrative remain blank - at present. Let us write away!

Methinks this is not a bad way to approach a new year. I will be considering it in earnest...

*Namaste, and happy New Year!*

## Religious Education News



Happy New Year! Wishing you...**Love, Peace, Happiness, Joy, Success, Health, Abundance, Creativity**, and everything else your heart desires! New Year is the day of new beginnings and wondering what the year will bring... Winter is upon us, and I think of an evening of good music, friends, and fun. This description is an upcoming event "Hot Music for a Cold Night" on Friday, January 13, 2023 at 7 p.m. (doors open). Warm up your evening with a night of smokin' live jazz, blues, and soul music, featuring award-winning local musicians Laura Rain and Emma Aboukasm. Nonalcoholic drinks and light refreshments will be available for sale. BYO alcoholic drinks.

Admission is \$20 per person in advance, or \$25 at the door.

Proceeds will benefit Alternatives for Girls.

The RE program is offering childcare for our members and friends. We will charge \$5.00 per student. We will have movies, games, and pizza.

Our RE classes will begin January 8, at 10:30 a.m. Also, we are offering OWL classes for 4-5th grades and OWL for 7-9th grades. If you have not signed up your student, please contact [julieartis@hotmail.com](mailto:julieartis@hotmail.com) or call 313-590-2464.

Here are some wonderings to start the 2023 New Year. There is one for each month of this New Year.

1. *"We carry within us the wonders we seek around us."* — Sir Thomas Browne
2. *"All you need is love."* — John Lennon and Paul McCartney
3. *"It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers."* — James Thurber
4. *"Your best takes your time"* — Thomas
5. *"Ignorance is not saying, I don't know. Ignorance is saying, I don't want to know."* — Unknown
6. *"Accept what you can't change. Change what you can't accept."* — Unknown
7. *"Find out what your gift is, and nurture it."* — Katy Perry
8. *"O world, I am in tune with every note of thy great harmony."* — Marcus Aurelius
9. *"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."* — Desmond Tutu



10. "One little word can light up someone's day." — Ainsley
11. "We didn't all come over on the same ship, but we're all in the same boat." — Bernard Baruch
12. "Nothing will work unless you do." — Maya Angelou

***"And now let us welcome the New Year Full of things that have never been"***  
— Rainer Maria Rilke

*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](mailto:julieartis@hotmail.com)

**Announcements, Upcoming Programs And Events**

*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!*

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church  
**ARE**  
Adult Religious Education

[Click Here for the Toast Link](#)

---



**HOT**  
**MUSIC**  
FOR A  
**COLD NIGHT**

AN EVENING OF JAZZ BLUES & SOUL  
FEATURING

LAURA RAIN  
EMMA ABOUKASM  
AND MORE

\$20 IN ADVANCE  
\$25 AT DOOR

PROCEEDS BENEFIT



Alternatives For Girls

**GROSSE POINTE UNITARIAN CHURCH**

**FRIDAY, JAN. 13 | DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM**

NONALCOHOLIC DRINKS & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
FOR SALE | BYO ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

FULL INFO & TICKETS:



[Click Here to Purchase Hot Music Tickets Online!](#)



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

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](mailto:jdmoore1415@gmail.com)).

## 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, January 5, 12, 19 & 26**



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





*The Lay Pastoral Committee  
Wishes You All  
A Happy & Healthy 2023!*

The committee would like to remind you all that we are here for you.  
No matter the need, we are ready to assist.

**— Helping Hands —**

The program offering the hiring of a student to help with tasks around the home continues. Please feel free to contact Julie Artis or Debbie Connelly to set up your helper.

Contact information can be found in the GPUC membership directory.

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

Carol Ghesquiere

Susan Hartz

Lynn Baker-Hunter

JoAnn Kelly

Linda Lawrence

Mary Morshead

Kathleen Ruhl

Janet Weber

---

## **RESALE SHOP NEWS!!!**

The Shop **will reopen on Wednesday, January 11**. We continue to have bargains galore, so drop by and enjoy the friendly ambience of our store on Wednesdays from 10 am – 3 pm.

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 would like to remind all donors that **weekly donations are limited to two small boxes OR two small bags.**

***Check out our very own Ameera, Kathy & Melanie (above) looking fabulous in their Resale Shop fashions! We are the friendliest Shop in town!***



***Enjoy the photos from the Resale Holiday Party, celebrated by our many volunteers (past & present). A wonderful time was had by all, thanks to our DJ Willie Barber and beautiful singing by Paul Lipsitz. Thank you to Margo Bishop and Juli Moore for setting up and coordinating all the food. We appreciate the love, camaraderie and hard work that each of the Resale volunteers give to GPUC!***






**Calling All GPUC Members!**

We are OFFICIALLY able to announce our **Roaring 20s Auction**, to be held at GPUC on **May 6, 2023**. This is an all-church celebration with lots of food, drink, costumes and fun for all!

We are just starting our planning for this event, and we hope to include the entire congregation in some aspect of the party. Are you able to donate your time to help plan or decorate or set up for a few hours or a day? What auction item donation will you be able to give to our church?

Please consider how you can best enhance our church auction as we celebrate this important GPUC fundraising and fellowship event.

Email one of our Core Auction Organizers with your ideas or offers of help:  
 Robin Ramsay ([rjramsay@comcast.net](mailto:rjramsay@comcast.net));  
 Kristen Foley ([smithk@umich.edu](mailto:smithk@umich.edu));  
 Sonja Franchett ([skrfranchett@gmail.com](mailto:skrfranchett@gmail.com))

## 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.

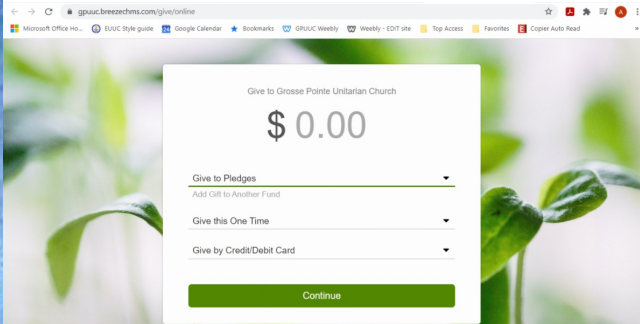
Breeze's checkout module gives you the options of donating using **Credit/Debit Cards or an ACH Payment directly from your bank account.**

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](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com).

Thank you!



[Click Here To Give Now!](#)

---

## Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

After celebrating the holidays, many folks are not so fortunate and need a helping hand. Along with chilling 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 Winter!***

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.

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.

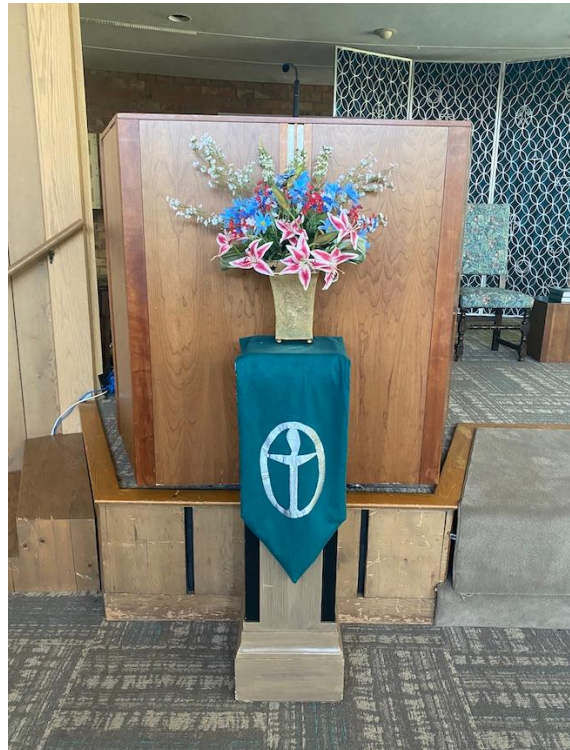
---

## 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](mailto: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.

---

# CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM PRESENTS ...

## Joseph Palazzolo, Classical Pianist

In Concert at Beth Shalom  
14601 Lincoln, Oak Park, MI

Saturday, January 28, 2023

7:30pm-9:30pm

Refreshments provided.

\$20/advance; \$25/door

Visit [bit.ly/cafeshalom2023](https://bit.ly/cafeshalom2023) or  
call the synagogue at  
248-547-7970 to register.



[Click Here To Register](#)

### 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**

**Go to:**

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

*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](https://www.instagram.com/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](mailto:ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org)

#### Contact Information

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

17150 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9AM - 3PM

Phone: 313-881-0420 Fax: 313-881-6430

Email: [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com)

Website: [gpuuc.org](http://gpuuc.org)

Editor: Kathleen Ruhl [newslettergpuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettergpuc@gmail.com)

Background Photo by [Zoltan Tasi](https://www.unsplash.com/) on Unsplash

