

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

June 2021

[There will not be a July or August newsletter](#)

September Newsletter Deadline

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

Sunday, August 22nd

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

Upcoming Services

In order to protect our congregation and do our part to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), all in-person church events, classes, meetings, rehearsals and workshops are suspended until further notice. The Resale Shop has decided to open but on an appointment only basis. To reach the church office please email officegpc@gmail.com or leave a voicemail on the office phone 313-881-0420 ext. 10.

Worship services will 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, June 4, 11, 18, & 25.

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.

June 6, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: "First Love"

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Tonya Wells

This Sunday is our annual Flower Communion. ***We are delighted to be gathering together in person for this service, in our GPUC Memorial Garden! (Weather permitting)*** (Youth will have their own service on the other side of the building, with our D.R.E. Julie Artis.) We will have a special guest musician and we will be singing hymns. *Please bring a flower to share.* ***NOTE** – This service is an exception to the rule and does not indicate that we are returning to in person services henceforth. All other Sunday services will occur on Zoom until further notice. ***FURTHER NOTE – Vaccination is required for attendance.** If you are not vaccinated, for any reason, or cannot attend because you are currently homebound, *you will still be able to attend this service via Zoom, per usual.*

June 13, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: "Marcus Aurelius: Stoic Wisdom for Life"

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Michelle Scobie

Marcus Aurelius was a Roman Stoic philosopher. Stoic philosophy is a humanistic philosophy rooted in astute psychological insight and application. This Sunday, Dr. Riegel will reflect on a number of Aurelius' philosophical prescriptions for living a stoic life. You may be surprised just how powerful and applicable is this ancient Roman philosopher's wisdom for modern life!

June 20, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: "Fathers' Reflections on Fatherhood"

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Carol Guither

A few years ago, several members of our congregation spoke about the meaning of Father's Day. This Father's Day, several fathers in our congregation will share their reflections on the experience of Fatherhood.

June 27, 2021

10:00 AM

Sermon: "General Assembly Worship Experience"

Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. This powerful, communal worship experience will stream on [uua.org/ga](https://www.uua.org/ga) Sunday, June 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. EDT and again at 10:00 a.m. PDT.

Each year a talented group of choral singers perform at the Sunday Morning Worship for the General Assembly audience.

More information may be found here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship>

Summer Services Speakers

Date of Service	Speaker	Brief Description of Speaker
6-27-21	The congregation will join the UU General Assembly Service - details to follow	The First Universalist Church of Minneapolis will serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service
7-4-21	Joan Richardson	Prior editor/reporter with the Detroit Free Press & expert on public attitude toward public schools
7-11-21	John Artis	Congregant
7-18-21	Carole Hosey	Congregant
7-25-21	John Corvino	Dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and Professor of Philosophy at Wayne State University
8-1-21	Kevin Ketels	Global supply chain management lecturer at Wayne State University
8-8-21	Jerry Herron	Congregant
8-15-21	Rabbi Jeff Falick	Secular Humanist Rabbi at The Birmingham Temple
8-22-21	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
8-29-21	Ken Meisel	LSMW, psychotherapist & poet
9-5-21	Chuck Palmer	Congregant

Alexander's Meander



Perhaps, now, the winter of our discontent is over? There are vaccines aplenty. Social distancing guidelines have been relaxed. The economy is gaining steam. And we knock upon summer's door.

Still, as I slowly re-enter the world, I notice a pervasive hesitancy in the people I encounter. It's as if we have forgotten how to be together. Maybe we have...and in that forgetfulness also become a little fearful...

I liken our hesitancy to the budding rose, afraid to unfold itself before a world it does not know.

Along these lines, the mystic poet Hafez wrote a poem, worth repeating:

*How
Did the rose
Ever open its heart
And give to this world
All its
Beauty?
It felt the encouragement of light
Against its
Being,
Otherwise,
We all remain
Too
Frightened.*

Friends, as we re-enter the world, we can be the rose bud or we can be the light. Both are wondrous, the former in its aesthetic tenderness, the latter in its tender encouragement.

I encourage you to be the light. Nurture those tender souls you encounter with your own tenderness. Gift them with the encouragement of your light against their being. Help them to open their hearts and give to this world all their beauty.

In the last fifteen months, we've learned at least this much, haven't we?

Religious Education News



As our Religious Education year winds down, I want to express my deep appreciation for all the volunteers who made this year successful. It is through your commitment and caring that makes our Religious Education Program work. We had to change our path of meeting from classrooms in our beautiful church to Zoom classrooms in our own homes and outdoor events. We made it work because we all did it together. We do not know still what September will bring for our classes, but we will meet and decide together this summer how to go forward. We will be sharing more outdoor events come Fall.

There are three things I would like you to focus on this summer.

1. Please keep a **Comfort File**. Everyday write down what is bringing you and your family comfort.
2. I would like you to make a Seven Principle Sundae with your family. This Sundae will remind you what binds us together and you can have some fun, and it tastes delicious too!
3. Check out some of our summer services. We always have interesting speakers.

SEVEN PRINCIPLE SUNDAE

COOKIE: A cookie at the bottom of the bowl represents the **EARTH**. Our 7th UU Principle reminds us to take care of the planet we call home.

ICE CREAM: One or two scoops of ice cream represent **LOVE**. **Love** is the spirit of our church and is our 1st UU Principle to remind us to respond with love to everyone we meet, because each person is important.

TOPPINGS: Toppings like hot fudge, caramel or strawberries represent our 3rd UU Principle of learning, to be wise together. You chose your favorite to add and some even take a little of each because **WISDOM** can come from many places.

MIXED NUTS: Nuts represent our 4th UU Principle. We all are on a **SEARCH** for truth and meaning. You can search through these mixed nuts to find the ones you like to add to your life.

WHIPPED CREAM: Adding whipped cream to your sundae represents the **JUSTICE** and **EQUITY** mentioned in our 2nd UU Principle. This makes life that much better.

CHERRY: A cherry on top represents **PEACE**. We work for a fair and peaceful world in our 6th UU Principle. World peace is the cherry on top of life we all must strive towards.

SPRINKLES: Adding a generous dash of red, white, and blue sprinkles. They represent **DEMOCRACY**, which is at the heart of our 5th Principle.

This is a time that we are all learning about ourselves and our families. If you are experiencing new things you are flourishing inside. Your heart is changing too. It may be feeling that there is more to recognize, and it wants something new. You can positively change during this time. Do not be afraid to change and stay connected to your UU friends from GPUC. You can always email or call Rev. Alex and me. We are there for you and your family.

Stay safe and enjoy the sun.

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

Join the GPUC Religious Education Program's

Puzzle Loan Library

Drop off 1,000-or-less piece puzzles that you are willing to loan.

Please put your name on them, or the word "donate." We are collecting puzzles now.

You can make an appointment with Julie Artis by emailing her at:

julieartis@hotmail.com

Appointments begin Jan. 4, 2021 to choose a puzzle.

Please take a picture of your completed puzzle and send to Julie or post to our Facebook pages.

Announcements, Upcoming Programs And Events

May Day GPUC Auction Final Update

The winding road to Auction success has been long! Our first auction meeting date was October 1, 2019. At that time we were planning a Roaring Twenties theme and a live spring auction. The pandemic postponed our efforts, but despite many zigs and zags leading to a completely virtual May Day 2021 event, our planners' ingenuity and creativity, along with the enormous generosity of the entire congregation, led to our most lucrative GPUC Auction ever. Our combined efforts brought in \$19,221.00 for our church, income urgently needed to carry out our church family's needs, wants and goals for the future. Kudos especially to Robin Ramsay and Kristen Foley who served as our stalwart and fearless leaders throughout the whole multi-year process.

A word of thanks from our auction chairs:

Well, it really does take a village to create an auction fundraiser. Thanks so much to all who worked so hard and so cheerfully for so long. And we can't forget the generosity of all of our donors and bidders.

We're thrilled with the success.

Chairs: Robin Ramsay, Christy Winder

Acquisitions Chair and Online Auction Guru: Kristen Foley

Technical Advisor: Rudy Wedenoja

Publicity Chair: Sonja Franchett

Sneak Peek: Chris Vadino, Michelle Scobie

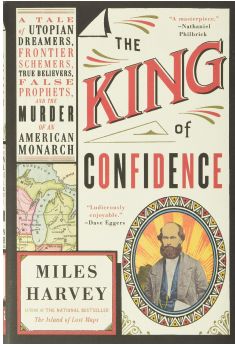
Auction Committee: Kathy Marcozzi, Bill Rehahn, Mollie Fletcher, Lynn Rehahn, Julie Artis

Donation Acquisitions Team: Lynn Rehahn, Bill Rehahn, Carol Guither, Christy Winder, Russ Chavey, Janet Weber, Sonja Franchett, Mark Franchett, Jud Cole, Ann Helm, Mollie Fletcher

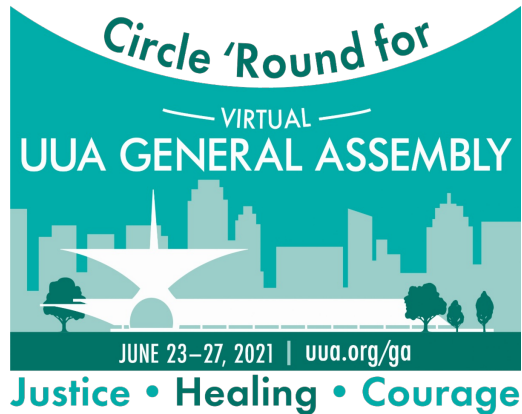
Live Auction Emcees: Jerry Herron and Carol Guither

Live Auction Tech Team: Rudy Wedenoja, Lauri Hoese, Jeff Marotzke

Reading Selection for GPUC Book Group



Carol Guither will lead the discussion of *The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets, and the Murder of an American Monarch* by Miles Harvey via Zoom at on **Tuesday, June 15th at 7 pm**. The Zoom invitation will be sent the day before the meeting. If everyone can be on time to the meetings (they start at 7 pm), we can have a few minutes of socializing before the leader begins. Non-group members who wish to attend should contact Juli Moore: jdmoore1415@gmail.com



UUA Virtual General Assembly June 23-27, 2021

[Link to required Registration info](#)

Where can you find 5,000 UUs in one room? The answer is usually at the UUA General Assembly the last week of June each year. But of course these are not “usually” times.

This year the GA is virtual. For the uninitiated it is an event including Annual Services and lectures as well as wonderful workshops and panel discussions on a wide range of relevant topics. The Annual Ware lecture is always a high point and this year the speaker is Stacey Abrams. Many of this year’s sessions are focused on social justice.

In order to vote in the “business sessions” one must be a delegate and that requires Board approval. The registration fee is \$200 to participate in all the activities. The Sunday 6/27 service is open to all. And after the event nearly all of it is available on line through the UUA website.

Take a moment to look at the schedule and break out sessions to learn more about this annual event. You might even consider attending the 2022 live event in Portland Oregon. Russ and I have gone to several General Assemblies and there is really nothing like standing with several thousand UUs singing Blue Boat Home.

Christy Winder Associational Affairs Chair

GPUC Resale Shop Used Bike Sale

Are you looking for a bike or do you have an old bike to donate? Now is your chance to get a bike or clear that old bike out of your garage and support the GPUC Resale Shop.

Recycle Reuse Repurpose a Bike for a Great Purpose

Please [click here to view all bikes](#) currently up for purchase.



Mark Franchett is now selling the bikes from his garage with all proceeds going to the GPUC Resale Shop.

If you are interested, please send him an email(mark.franchett@gmail.com) or call the phone number listed in the GPUC directory. From there, you can set up a time to stop by for a test ride. If needed, he can deliver the bike to your home if you are unable to fit the bike in your car.

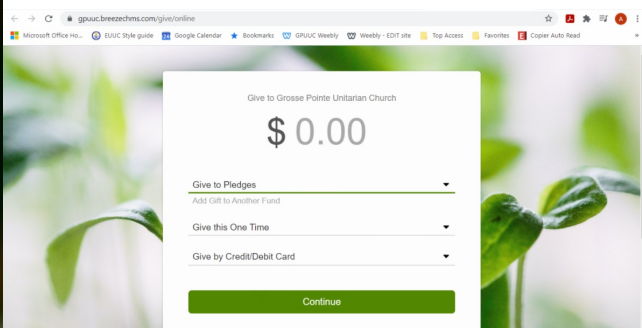
Giving Made Easy Thanks to Breeze!

We have been encouraging many to utilize Breeze as an alternative to paying for your pledges, fundraising or just giving a donation! Breeze gives the option of setting up recurring transactions or give one time.

When using Breeze, it will give you the option to cover the processing fee without having to calculate. The processing fee will be credited towards your total tax-deductible giving and will help us retain every bit of your donation!

If you have any questions about Breeze, please feel free to reach out to Ameera.

Thank you!



Click Here To Give Now!

Video Library From GA 2020

It has recently come to my attention that all of the sessions from last year's General Assembly are available to view for free. The UUA has created an on-demand video library including the worship services, Ware Lecture by Naomi Klein (author of *This Changes Everything*) and all of the workshops. There are a vast variety of workshops available to view, consider perusing the offerings via this link: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2020>. Click on "Showcase" right under the heading "On-Demand Video"

Russell Chavey

Looking to shop? Resale now accepting appointments!

After much deliberation, the resale has decided to open but on an appointment only basis. There will be no more than three (3) customers at a given time. Masks will be required.

If you want to take advantage of the great sales, please call Margo Bishop at (586) 778-2185 to schedule your date and time.

Good News... while the Resale Shop remains closed due to Covid-19, our on-line Ebay site is selling unique gift items and jewelry. New items are being added weekly. Need a gift? We may have it! The Ebay link, **gpannex**, is easily accessible through the link on the church website.

We are looking forward to seeing you happy shoppers!

Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

Food Sharing continues all year long! Please drop off your non-perishable food donations or bathroom necessities at GPUC for delivery to Crossroads. Our donations are very much appreciated! Thank you!

Virtual Services Archive

Those of you that have missed any of the virtual Sunday worship services can watch, listen to the audio or read the chat on our website under: [WHO WE ARE - SUNDAY SERVICES - VIRTUAL SERVICES](#) or click this link: <https://www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services.html>

We continue to upload the weekly virtual services to the church website.

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/>.

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. Contact information:

Photo by Milada Vigerova on Unsplash

Rebekah Agnew, LLPC

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit: Lake House Location

An affiliate of the Cancer Support Community

Program Manager

Email: ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org

Gentle Yoga

Weekly Gentle Yoga Moves Outdoors

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

Good news! GPUC Gentle Yoga classes will now be a hybrid of in-person in the GPUC Memorial Gardens, and on Zoom for those who prefer to attend virtually.

If you wish to attend in person, please

arrive 5-10 minutes early to get set up on the terrace or the grass. If you are using Zoom, simply click the link in the weekly notice as usual.

Photo by [Avrielle Suleiman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

If rain or thunderstorms are forecast, we will move inside to the church vestibule. Please note that **until further notice, masks will be required** to practice yoga in the church. Carol has taught classes where she and the participants are masked, and it works fine.

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. Feel free to use a chair instead of the floor.

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.

Thursday, June 3, 10, 17 & 24

By clicking the link below, I affirm that a licensed physician has verified my good health and physical condition to participate in such a fitness program. In addition, I will make the instructor aware of any medical conditions or physical limitations before class. I also affirm that I alone am responsible to decide whether to practice yoga and participation is at my own risk. I hereby agree to irrevocably release and waive any claims that I have now or may have hereafter against Carol Guither / Jackrabbit LLC and Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/845443715?pwd=ZzJlcTdvK0xZalFsQWxDaXJSYzNmUT09>

Meeting ID: 975 6787 7997

If prompted, please use password: 897206



Healing Clinic and Meditation

ONLINE Healing Clinic and Meditation First & Third Thursdays of the month June 3rd and 17th 7-9PM

The Clinics have changed to an online format for meditation and distant healing. Pranic Healing is a no-touch therapy, therefore distant healing is possible through the principle of oneness.

Join us for this online Zoom community event offering Pranic Healing sessions and Meditation on Twin Hearts.

Pranic Healing is an advanced system of energy medicine that utilizes prana or chi to cleanse and harmonize the body's energy system. The healing clinic begins with a beautiful guided meditation using the universal Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. Then Pranic Healers offer mini healing sessions for relief from physical and/or emotional issues.

Donations welcome.

Venmo

<https://venmo.com/Carrie-Viviano>

Cash App

[https://cash.app/\\$CarrieViviano](https://cash.app/$CarrieViviano)

Paypal

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/carrieviviano>

Must be 16 yrs old to participate in the meditation. All ages welcome for healing.



To receive Zoom event scheduling info via email or for questions please contact: Carrie Viviano, Pranic Healer/Intro Leader, carrie@pranichealing.com or (586) 943-4404

Contact Information

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