

*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**

## March 2021

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME REMINDER: SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH**

### Newsletter Deadline

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

**Monday, March 22nd**

Submit items to the newsletter email address: [newslettergpuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettergpuc@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 [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@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, March 5, 12, 19, & 26.**

#### **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.

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March 7, 2021

10:30 AM

**Sermon:** *"The Forest and the Trees"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Maurya Kay

We live in an "anti-institutional age." The millennial generation especially shuns institutions, per the Pew Research Center. If this trend continues, what does that portend for society as a whole and religion in particular? Have we simply lost site of the forest for the trees or is something deeper taking place in the cultural landscape? In this sermon, Dr. Riegel will argue for the importance of institutions and how our commitment to institutions is vital to the well-being of society.

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**March 14, 2021**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"Eschewing Escher"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Tonya Wells

Einstein's special theory of relativity taught us that what we perceive depends on where we stand and how fast we are moving relative to the object of our perception. In other words, we live in a "perspectival" universe. There is no objectivity to be found. Dr. Riegel will explore this theme of perspectivism and draw out its implications for how we live our lives.

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**March 21, 2021**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"Back to Zanzibar"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Carol Guither

In Feb., Dr. Riegel preached a sermon on proverbial wisdom from around the world. There is no end to such proverbial wisdom, so, due to popular demand, Dr. Riegel will revisit more proverbial wisdom from around the world. Maybe you CAN step into the same river twice?! Have a favorite proverb you'd like to hear Dr. Riegel ponder?

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**March 28, 2021**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"Commitment to Our Earthly Vision"*

**Worship Leader:** Joshua Berg, Northwest Ministerial Intern

**Worship Associate:** Chuck Palmer

Rev. Mary Safford was a founder of the Iowa Sisterhood, a group of women ministers who spread Unitarianism into the rural Midwest during the turn of the 20th century. She wrote that "the liberal church today is to be obedient to its heavenly vision. Not only must we proclaim the saving truths we hold, but we must also strive to build up these truths in our own lives and in the lives of others." This Sunday we'll explore the Iowa Sisterhood and what they modeled that we can emulate today to move Unitarian Universalism successfully into the future.



“Are we there yet?” These days, I feel like a child in the back seat of a car that seems like it will never arrive at its destination! Between this pandemic and the isolation it demands, the midst of winter, a death in the family, and never ending Zoom days there is an auric drone that surrounds me all my waking hours.

I know I am not alone. We all have a version of “Are we there yet?” rolling through our heads, I am sure.

As I was reading through a little Hafez the other day, I happened upon one of my favorite Hafez poems, not because it is particularly witty or profound, but because it is reassuring. I share it with you here - as a little solace for what ails us.

*Missing you all very much,  
Alex*

### **“Don’t Despair”**

Joseph to his father in Canaan shall return, don’t despair walk on; □  
and Jacob’s hut will brighten with flowers, don’t despair walk on.

Aching hearts heal in time, vanished hopes reappear, □  
the disparate mind will be pacified, don’t despair walk on.

As the spring of life grows the newly green meadow,  
roses will crown the sweet nightingale’s song, don’t despair walk on.

If the world does not turn to your whims these few days,  
cosmic cycles are preparing to change, don’t despair walk on.

If desperation whispers you’ll never know God,  
it’s the talk of hidden games in the veil, don’t despair walk on.

O heart, when the vast flood slashes life to its roots,  
Captain Noah waits to steer you ashore, don’t despair walk on.

If you trek as a pilgrim through sands to Kaabeh  
with thorns lodged deep in your soul shouting why, don’t despair walk on.

Though oases hide dangers and your destiny’s far,  
there’s no pathway that goes on forever, don’t despair walk on.

My trials and enemies face me on their own,  
but mystery always backs up my stand, don’t despair walk on.

Hafez, weakened by poverty, alone in the dark,  
this night is your pathway into the light, don’t despair walk on.

*From: The Spiritual Wisdom of Hafez □ Haleh Pourafzal and Roger Montgomery*

In the face of a multitude of global problems, it is difficult to feel like an individual can make a difference. Our minds and hearts are in the right place but what can one person really do? It turns out quite a lot.

I recently read the book ONE by Dan Zadra & Kobi Yamada. This is how they start off. "Throughout your life there's a voice that only you can hear. It's a call to the true value of your life—a call to make a difference that only you can make. If you never hear it, something magical will be lost. But if you hear it and heed it, then your life will become a wonderful romance and adventure. Each one of us comes into the world with certain gifts designed to make life a better place for ourselves and others. We all have special gifts that we've never opened." So, open up and discover some of your gifts.

Ask these questions first. In my life so far...

- Who have I already taught or mentored?
- Who have I already supported or helped?
- Who have I already encouraged or inspired?
- Who have I already forgiven?
- Who in my community have I already changed for the better?

Moving forward ask these questions. In my life who will I...

- Who will I teach or mentor?
- Who will I support or help?
- Who will I encourage or inspire?
- Who will I forgive?
- Who in my community will I change for the better?

Your life can be a path of coincidence, happenstance, and luck, or it can be a purposefully planned out course to touch the lives of others and make the differences that only you can make in the world!



As part of our faith, we believe in providing service to others in need. Below is a list of service projects that you can provide with your family. Once a month please drop off at GPUC food for our Crossroads collection. The Marck Family takes all donations to Crossroads. We have been providing food to a food bank for over 40 years.

**Ring the bell on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri It is a good idea to call ahead.**

We also are collecting men's and women's socks and underwear, and I have attached the link below that you can go to and fill your name in and they will tell you where to drop them <https://happycheeks.org/call-to-action>

Finally, a Detroit organization is making PBJ sandwiches weekly for the homeless in Detroit. All of the instructions are included in the sign-up genius (link below) and there are open slots later in March. This is great to do as a family or for kids with their friends. I know it says to drop off the sandwiches by 10:00 am but you can drop off the sandwiches the night before.

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/904044aa8ae2aa3f85-pbj>

*One Person can make a difference, and everyone should try.*

— John F. Kennedy

*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](mailto: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.

### Adult Education Events

#### Adult Religious Education Presents: Foundations of a National Political Community

GPUC Adult Religious Education presents

### Foundations of a National Political Community

*A continuation of the final Articles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights*

Featuring Joseph Buttiglieri and John Artis

**March 21, 2021**

**3:00pm** a ZOOM experience

e-mail registration required — [jartis@hotmail.com](mailto:jartis@hotmail.com)

The discussion will include:

- Final commentary on Articles 4-7 of the Constitution

*Discussion and Questions*

- The Bill of Rights—a brief history regarding where they came from
- A careful examination of the First and Second Amendments
- Time permitting, a review of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Amendments

*Questions and Commentary*

*Our final program will cover the remaining Amendments*

### Upcoming Programs And Events

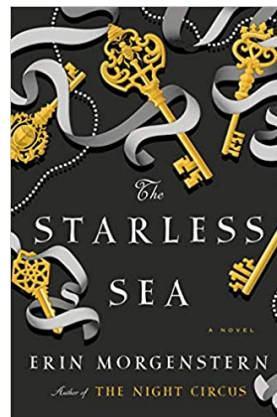
#### Book Discussion Group To Discuss "The Starless Sea"

Tuesday, March 16th, at 7 pm via Zoom

Carol Guither will lead a discussion of "The Starless Sea" by Erin Morgenstern.

Book group members will receive the Zoom invitation the day of 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.

Those non-group members wishing to attend should



[Download the Book List here](#)

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## Bike Drive 2021

We are kicking off the GPUC Resale Shop used bike drive. Here is a great opportunity to recycle that old bike, clean out a spot in your garage and help GPUC. This winter we are collecting bikes for resale this coming spring. We will take donated bikes in any shape, size or condition. All bikes will be reconditioned and tuned up for resale. Please email, text or call Mark Franchett for pickup of your donated bike. ([mark.franchett@gmail.com](mailto:mark.franchett@gmail.com))



Please contact Robin Ramsay ([rjramsay@comcast.net](mailto:rjramsay@comcast.net)) or Christy Winder ([clwinder@gmail.com](mailto:clwinder@gmail.com)) with any questions.

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## Save the dates:

This spring the **Annual Meeting** of the congregation will be **after service Sunday, May 23rd**.

The Board will be proposing an amendment to the church bylaws which will need to be voted on by the congregation. Therefore a **special meeting** will be held **after service on Sunday, April 18th**. More information to follow including the text of the proposed changes will follow closer to the date of the special meeting.

The spring **grounds clean-up** this spring is scheduled for **Sunday, April 11th, 1-3 pm**.

**Notice special meeting April 18, 2021  
11:30 pm**

There will be a brief special meeting held after church concerning an amendment to the Bylaws regarding Election and Terms. As you know the congregation approved a revision to the bylaws on May 19, 2019. At the suggestion of the Leadership Development Committee, the Board is recommending the following revision to Article VIII (F) and (H). The requested amendment is in bold, while the current provision is in normal text.

**ARTICLE VIII – Elections and Terms**

**F. Chairs of Standing Committees shall serve two year terms, not to exceed three consecutive terms as Chair of the same committee, nor shall any of the above return to chair the same committee prior to a two year hiatus.**

Chairs of Standing Committees shall serve one year terms, not to exceed two consecutive terms as Chair of the same committee, nor shall any of the above return to chair the same committee prior to a two year hiatus.

**H. Members of the Leadership Development committee shall each serve a two year term, not to exceed three consecutive terms, nor shall any of the above return to serve on the Leadership Development committee prior to a two year hiatus.**

Members of the Leadership Development committee shall each serve a two year term, not to exceed two consecutive terms, nor shall any of the above return to serve on the Leadership Development committee prior to a two year hiatus.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any GPUC Board Trustee.

Thank you

## Announcements, Upcoming Programs & Events

### 2021-2022 GPUC Pledge Drive Begins Next Week

We are in the process of sending all church members and friends a letter and pledge form for our next fiscal year. Please be on the lookout for this email. This year's theme is "**Let's Get Through This Together!**" We will be presenting a **pledge drive kickoff show on Zoom immediately following the church service on March 7<sup>th</sup>**, and we are requesting that everyone **respond with their pledges** of financial support **by March 15<sup>th</sup>**. We trust you will continue to generously support your church, as we bring our beloved community through this pandemic period together.

Your Canvass Committee,

Jerry Herron, Julie Moore, Chuck Palmer, and Rudy Wedenoja

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17150 Maumee Avenue  
 Grosse Pointe, MI 48230  
 313-881-0420  
 313-881-6430 Fax  
 email: [gpuc@gpuc.us](mailto:gpuc@gpuc.us)  
 website: [www.gpuuc.org](http://www.gpuuc.org)

As members of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, we are its stewards, and we are obliged to maintain the church and improve it for the next generation. This requires generosity—not just of time and assistance in supporting our many church programs, but also financial generosity, which flows from our gratitude for all that this church provides.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought changes in the ways we now get together, whether it's Sunday Zoom services, or RE instruction, or drive-through events, from cookies to chili, or on-line book study groups. We are all working hard to keep our community alive and secure. Now, more than ever, perhaps, in these difficult days, it's a time to reflect on all the good things our church provides, and to be mindful of the debt of gratitude we owe to the dedicated staff on whom we all depend.

That leads us to the Canvass theme for this year: **Let's Get Through This Together!** And we *will*, get through this. But we need your help, especially now. As we are reminded frequently, by the good we do for each other, we are the church, and *we are a church not defined by any one person, but by who we are, all of us together — a beloved community.*

Your financial pledges of support for the next fiscal year will determine our ability to overcome the challenges that the pandemic has put in our path, and to keep our community strong. The church's total income this year is down 14%. But our expenses have declined by only 4%. This year's pledges totaled \$253,000, which provided only 67% of our \$335,500 budget. With the loss of the \$16,000 City of Grosse Pointe rental coming next year, increasing our pledge income becomes even more important than usual. Our goal is to increase total pledges 15%, to a total of \$314,500.

We understand that the pandemic has put special strains on some people's budgets, so that pledging becomes problematic. That is why we are asking those who are able, who may not have been so adversely affected by recent events, to consider increasing their pledges to get as close as possible to the average of \$2,740. Or consider an affordable percentage increase. At a minimum, we're asking everyone who is able to consider upping their pledges by 15%. If you break that down, month by month, or day by day, this is not a large dollar amount. We are depending on each other, now more than ever, to sustain our beloved community. **Let's get through this together!**

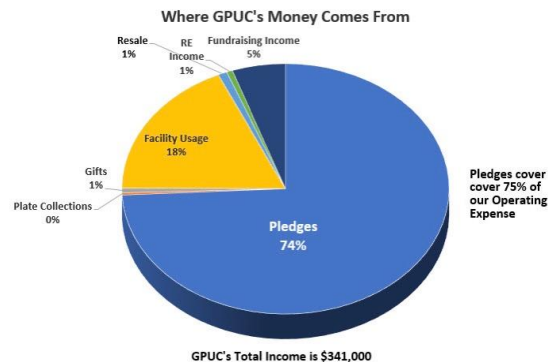
Please return your pledge form to the church using either email or US Mail by **March 15**.

Thank you,

The Canvass Committee  
 Jerry Herron, Juli Moore, Chuck Palmer, Rudy Wedenoia

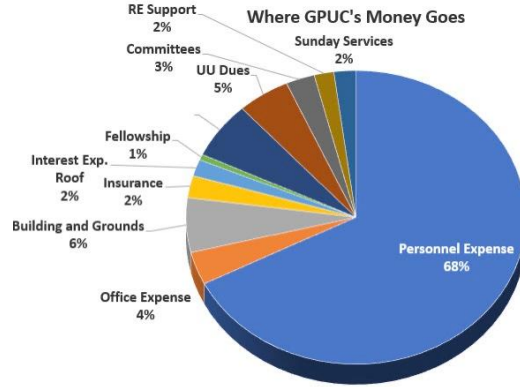
### Canvass Committee Update: The 2020-2021 GPUC budget

On March 7th, the church will begin our annual financial pledge drive for the next fiscal year. **Due to pandemic related factors, our total income this year is down 14% from the prior year.** The graph below breaks down the sources of our income this fiscal year:



**While our income has declined 14%, our costs have only declined by 4%** because we continue to pay employee salaries and benefits and maintain our church building and grounds. Here's a graph showing where the money is being spent this year:





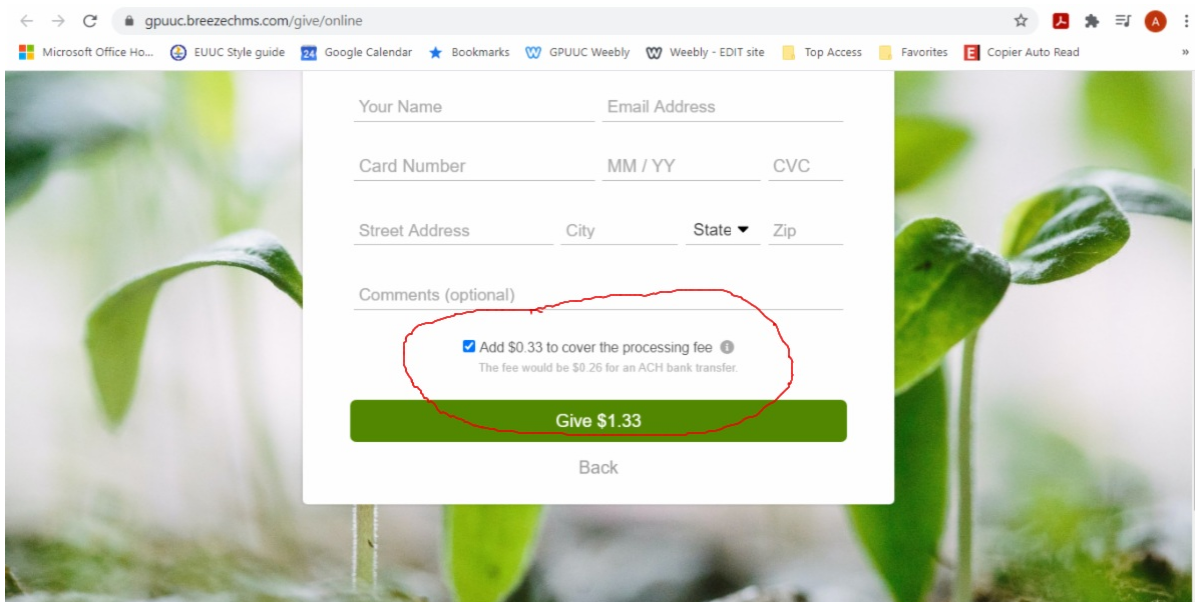
The GPUC Operating Budget is \$335,500

We can remedy the shortfall in income by asking members who have not been hurt by the pandemic to step up and increase their pledges. If members who *are* able are *willing* to meet this challenge, we can get through this dark period with minimal financial pain. We hope you will keep these facts in mind when making your pledge for next year.

Your Canvass Committee,  
 Jerry Herron, Juli Moore, Chuck Palmer, and Rudy Wedenoja

## Giving to GPUC is Easy Breezy!!!

If you are looking for an easy way to give or pay your pledge to GPUC, Breeze is that easy way! You can set up recurring transactions or give one time by following the instructions below:



To Pay Online go to: <https://gpuuc.breezechms.com/give/online>

When paying online, 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.

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

Thank you!

## 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!

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## Still haven't gotten your 20-21 Directory?

For those who have requested this years directory, they are available for pick up Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri from 9:00AM-4:30PM or may be sent by mail.

Please contact Ameera if you would like to receive your copy.

**For our members:** The directory is made available on our website in the "members only" section and will be updated through the year as changes are made.

Thank you!

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## ENTRY BY APPOINTMENT

Effective as of 7/30/2020: To limit the spread of Covid-19 and with the health of our congregants in mind, we are requiring all entry into the facility to be by appointment only. We ask our members to please call (313) 881-0420 ext. 10 or e-mail [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com) to schedule an appointment. Upon entry to the building, we require all to sign in and fill out a Covid-19 screening form. We appreciate you all very much and will continue to do our best to keep you all informed of any procedures we are implementing.

Thank you! - **Ameera Bandy**

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## Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

This is an anxious time for all of us, but especially for people struggling to access life's basic necessities. If you are in a position to help, please consider bringing non-perishable food or toiletries to the church. Please call or email the office before stopping by to be sure Ameera is there to receive them. Your donations will be taken to Crossroads East on Moross in Detroit.

Thank you for your continued support of our community.

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## Spiritual Advice in the Age of Coronavirus

Dr. Riegel has posted videos on the theme, "Spiritual Advice in the Age of coronavirus."

You may view his video post on our GPUC Facebook page, at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Grosse-Pointe-Unitarian-Church-134606831714/> (You will need to scroll down a bit.)

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## 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](mailto:ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org)

## Gentle Yoga

### Weekly Gentle Yoga Session

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

Carol Guither offers a 60 minute weekly Gentle Yoga session via Zoom every **Thursday from 4:30PM-5:30PM**, as long as there is interest.

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.



Photo by [Avrielle Suleiman](#) on Unsplash

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, March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th**

**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.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://zoom.us/meeting/vpAvf-6sqj0j\\_bWSQYEN7EO\\_cvTHF4uRjQ/ics?](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?zmt=98tyKugsrDMtHtCTuV_Hc7AvW9r-b_GxiE5MnZBspTrLVAV8XQDgAspkZqdNGumB)

[icsToken=98tyKugsrDMtHtCTuV\\_Hc7AvW9r-b\\_GxiE5MnZBspTrLVAV8XQDgAspkZqdNGumB](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?zmt=98tyKugsrDMtHtCTuV_Hc7AvW9r-b_GxiE5MnZBspTrLVAV8XQDgAspkZqdNGumB)

## Healing Clinic and Meditation

### ONLINE Healing Clinic and Meditation First & Third Thursdays of the month March 4th and 18th 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](mailto:carrie@pranichealing.com) or (586) 943-4404



### Contact Information

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

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