

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 2022

April 2022 Newsletter Deadline

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

Tuesday, March 22nd

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

Upcoming Services



Note from the board regarding in-person services resuming

At its February meeting, the Board discussed the current status of Sunday services and the mask policy for entering the church building at other times. The Board recognizes that in-person services and other church activities are vitally important to the life of the church. At the same time, the Board has a duty to provide a safe environment for all church members, friends and visitors.

It was decided to **resume in-person Sunday services beginning February 27th**. Services will continue to be available via zoom and recorded for later viewing.

The church will continue to require attendees at services be fully vaccinated and wear masks. N95 masks are strongly encouraged and will be provided by the church for those who do not have one available. We will resume singing during services but masks are to be worn while singing.

For folks who have need to enter the church at times other than Sunday services, wearing masks will be encouraged (but not required for those who are fully vaccinated). However, in view of the different levels of risk assessment and tolerance among church members, friends, and visitors, the Board has adopted the following policy:

If any individual conducting business in the church building requests others in attendance to wear a mask, those others in the vicinity at that time will be expected to wear a mask or leave the building.

While the State of Michigan and Wayne County are still at “very high risk” level for COVID exposure, the numbers of daily cases and hospitalizations are decreasing rapidly and hospital census rates are also decreasing. It is in view of these facts that the Board took the action it did this week. As it has been doing since March 2020, the Board will continue to monitor the status of COVID rates in our community and modify church activities as warranted.

We remain hopeful that we can soon host even more in-person church activities as the weather warms.

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, March 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.

March 6, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Wake Now My Senses"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Michelle Scobie

Dr. Riegel will be reflecting on one of his favorite hymns, "Wake Now My Senses." Our UU Hymnal is full of wonderful words of inspiration, reflection, and depth. It's time to understand and value them more deeply!

March 13, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"The Fire of Commitment"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

This Sunday kicks off our canvass effort. Dr. Riegel will be preaching a sermon on the importance of liberal religion in today's world. Too often liberals take things for granted, or, in the words of comedian Mark Maron, "While liberals have been busy going to yoga to perfect their downward dog pose, conservatives have been busy taking over the country at a grass roots level." Well, that's a paraphrase and maybe a little harsh, but it ought to get us thinking about whether we are doing enough.

March 20, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"The Four Courages"*

Worship Leader: Carol Blotter

Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

Our guest speaker will be Carol Blotter who has extensive experience in leading retreats, workshops and classes in meditation to spiritual seekers, schools, universities and medical groups over the last 20+ years. Her study and work over the last 25+ years has been focused around the universality of mystical teaching from Buddhism through to the Quaker tradition. Carol is the founder and the guiding teacher of Chelsea Meditation Group. She has also been a member in the Friends (Quaker) community since 1979. She will be exploring the Buddhist concept of the Four Courages: the courage to be human, the courage to be present, the courage to welcome afflictive emotions and the courage to live from an open heart. In these times of unknown well-being, we might all do well with a different perspective on what defines courage. <https://www.chelseameditation.com/>

March 27, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"The Problem of the Good"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer

One of the interesting things about us humans is that we tend to get theological when the chips are down or tragedy strikes. "Please, God, I promise!" or "If there were a God, this wouldn't be happening!" are the armchair theological utterances in such cases. But why don't we wax theological in the good times? Toward that end, this Sunday Dr. Riegel will be exploring "the problem of the good."



**“To live without hope is to cease to live.”
- Fyodor Dostoevsky**

This month of March embodies the tensions we're facing in life right now. We are caught both in the grip of winter, which resists the emergence of new life, and spring, when new life seeks to emerge. We feel this same tension with the Covid pandemic, geopolitics, economics, even our interpersonal relationships...

All of this is a test of spirits. One can see in these situations cause for despair or reasons for hope. Stated otherwise, this is an opportunity for spiritual practice. Start by noticing your own tendency. Do you lean toward despair or hope? Your answer to this question indicates where your attention falls.

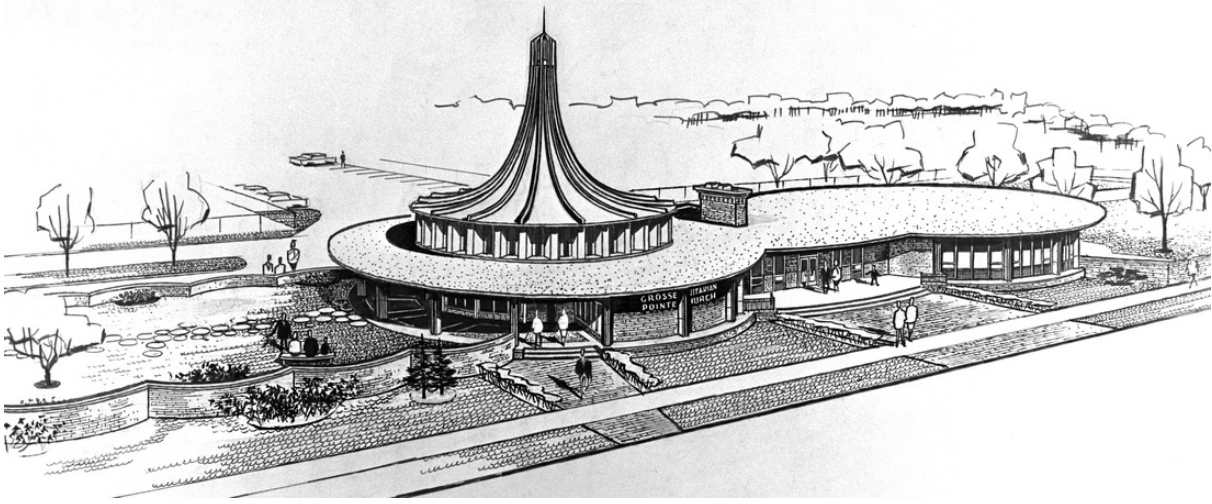
The spiritual practice part of this is to place your attention where there is reason for hope. That placement of attention will define your reality. And who doesn't want a reality where we see reasons for hope?! As Dostoevsky said, "To live without hope is to cease to live."

One of the things I'm most hopeful for these days is being able to continue to gather together in beloved community, like we did this past Sunday. Being in real space and time with one another is vital to church life. With that in mind, I strongly encourage you all to consider rejoining us on Sunday mornings. Remember, vaccinations are required and masks are available to help keep everyone safe. But if you're still not comfortable, you can continue to watch our Sunday morning services on Zoom.

Come, share a rose with us...

Alex

Religious Education News



Dear RE Families,

Below is information that I would like you to read to your family about March 19, 1939, which is GPUC's Founders Day. What Founders Day means? **A day celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of a society or organization, on which its founders are honored....'** In any organization the celebration of the Founder's Day is undoubtedly the most important in the calendar of annual events. There were 66 members who founded GPUC. We updated our mission and vision statement over the years. This is our present mission and vision statement.

The members of our church have established a mission statement and a vision statement. It is important that our students hear these words, and we teach them the mission and vision of our beloved church.

GPUC Mission Statement

We are a welcoming, compassionate community.

Committed to learning, service, social justice.

Celebrating joy, diversity, and integrity on our spiritual journey.

GPUC Vision Statement

Preamble

We, the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church congregation, commit to creating a liberal religious presence in our community and beyond — a dynamic presence that enables us to "envision a life filled with compassion for all, shared in beloved community, and lived in a just world."

Our vision statement reflects our congregational commitment to the future. It is based on the congregational responses to an anonymously administered survey followed by vigorous discussion shared in open, small groups.

The vision captures our congregational dreams for our spiritual and programmatic needs, outreach and social justice efforts, facilities needs, pastoral care, fellowship opportunities and fundraising efforts.

Vision Statement

We provide diverse and compelling ways for people of all ages to grow in spirit, conscience, and wisdom. Our worship services, lifelong educational programs, music, and service initiatives inspire children, youth, and adults to live with greater purpose, respect, and love. Through meaningful advocacy, outreach, and service we express our common commitment to social justice, peace, and compassion within and beyond our community.

As a welcoming and compassionate community we recognize that the care of one another is our shared responsibility. We recognize the importance of deep and enduring relationships within our congregation. We respond kindly and generously to needs within our community. We strive to welcome and integrate newcomers effectively. We foster fellowship by offering a variety of opportunities for social interaction in large and small groups.

The architectural design of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church and its grounds are a statement of hope for all to see. We will maintain and enhance our church grounds and facilities to meet the needs of our church family.

Religious Education Lessons

Sunday, March 6 we will be having regular classes.

Sunday, March 13 there will be luncheon for the students in the RE wing **at 12 noon**. There will be sitters to care for the students. All parents are asked to sign up and attend the adult luncheon that will take place in the Memorial Garden.

Sunday, March 20 the students will learn about GPUC Founders Day.

It is the first mild day of March. Each minute sweeter than before...

There is a blessing in the air...

— William Wordsworth

Stay safe,

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

Announcements, Upcoming Programs And Events



Upcoming Adult Religious Education Programs:

連歌

"Renga" in Japanese (Linked Verse)

March 2, 16, 30, Zoom events, 7:30 PM: Renga Workshop: Can You Renga?

Renga is a Japanese poetic form of "linked poetry" written by multiple collaborating poets. It is also a tool for socializing, as people sit together, writing individual two and three line verses. While each stanza should stand on its own, they should be linked by some common factor, such as shared images, subject, words, seasons, etc. In the past, renga has also been used as a form of correspondence: one poet sends three lines to a friend, who responds with two lines, back and forth. The favorite length is a 36-line form called a *kasen*. However, renga can be hundreds of lines long.

Join us! Bring a friend, spouse, significant other, or acquaintance. We'll pair up, make a game of it and see how many interesting stanzas can be cobbled together from one session to another. Before you know it, Spring will be here!

This workshop will be held virtually and will be led by Bill Rehahn.

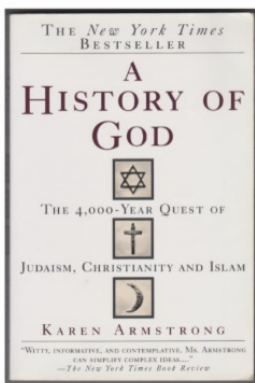
To learn more about the form, here's a link: <https://poets.org/glossary/renga>

Workshop dates: Wednesday, March 2nd, 16th, and 30th at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

In order to receive a Zoom link to the workshop sessions, please RSVP no later than Tuesday March 1st using the link below. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa8af28a0fcc16-gpuc4>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa8af28a0fcc16-gpuc4>



April 6, and every first and third Wednesday in April, May, and June, Zoom events, 7:30 PM: Book discussion of *A History of God*, by Karen Armstrong (Intro and Ch1 for first week; 2 chapters per session thereafter).

Whether an atheist, a model of devout piety, or curmudgeonly Unitarian, there's no denying that the world's three main monotheistic religions have shaped world history. Humans have always held to the notion that a divine presence influences worldly affairs. But there's something distinctive about the history of a single God as conceived by Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

In reading the book you'll get a sense of how the concept of God has evolved, as well as how humankind's changing conceptualization of itself is reflected in the mutable figure of God him/her self.

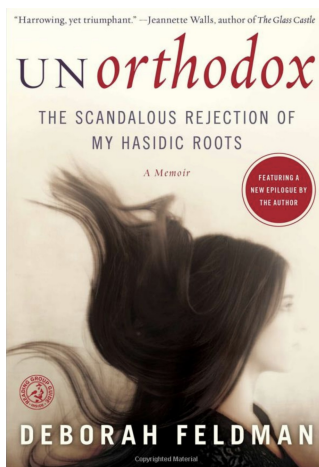
These discussions will be held virtually, led by members of the ARE Committee.

Book discussions will begin April 6, and will take place every first and third Wednesday in April, May, and June, at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

In order to receive a Zoom link to the discussions, please RSVP using the sign-up link below no later than Tuesday, April 5. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FA8AF28A0FCC16-gpuc5>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FA8AF28A0FCC16-gpuc5>



Book Discussion Group Tuesday, March 15th, at 6 pm

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 15th at 6 pm via Zoom. Ann Lipsitz will lead the discussion of Deborah Feldman's *UNorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*. The Zoom invitation will be sent the day before the meeting. Non-members can get further information by contacting Juli Moore: jdmoore1415@gmail.com or contacting the church office. *All are welcome to join us!*

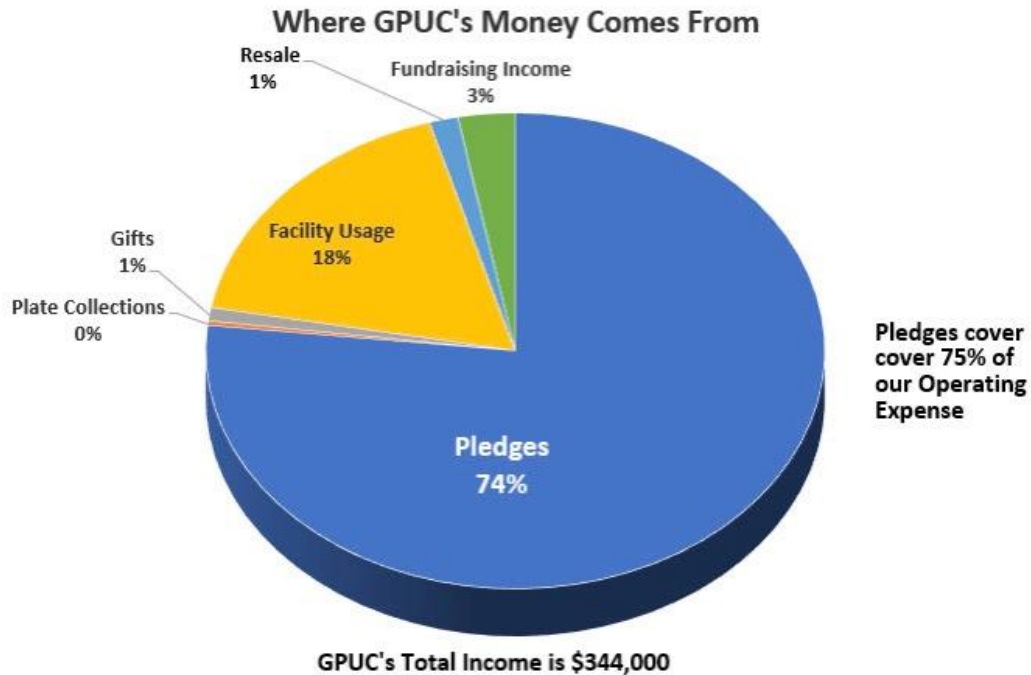
Spring Canvass Kickoff Party on Sunday, March 13th, right after the Sunday church service

Every spring, the Canvass Committee solicits pledges of financial support for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs from July 1st - June 30th. This year, the Canvass Committee is throwing a **Kickoff Party** outside on the church terrace immediately after the church service on **Sunday, March 13th**. There will be drinks, musical entertainment and a wonderful box lunch prepared by Grosse Pointe's Cabbage Patch Café. If there is a local team in the NCAA Basketball Tournament scheduled at the same time, we'll even have a TV out there! Come party with your friends and pledge your support for our beloved GPUC community. Child care will also be available. Please respond to the separate email you will receive with the RSVP form. **Please return the RSVP form or signup by [clicking this link to RSVP](#) no later than March 4th.**

NEWS FROM THE CANVASS COMMITTEE

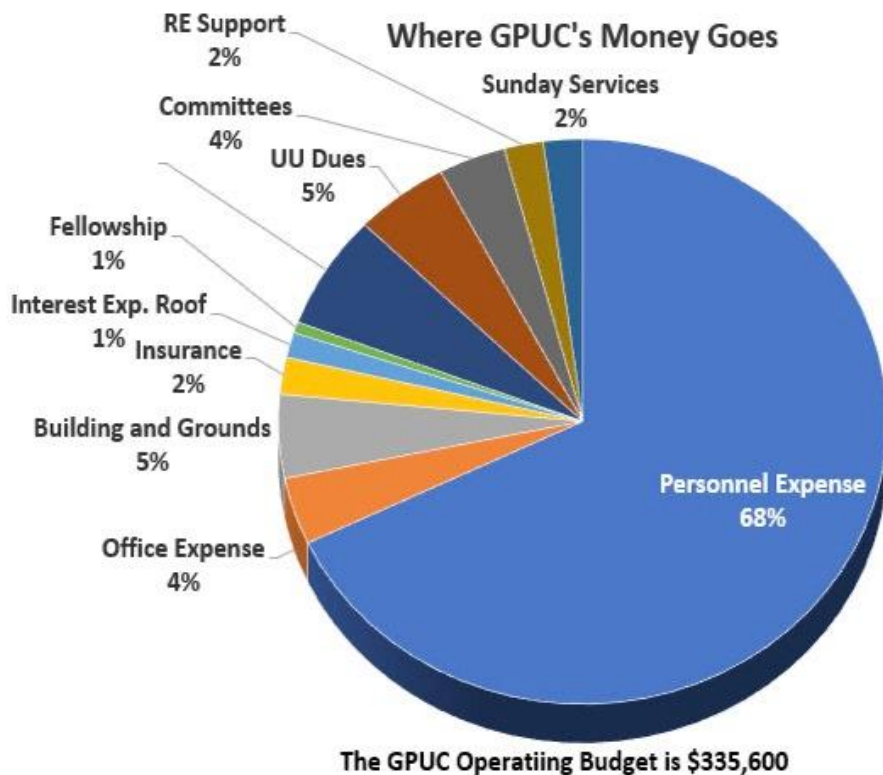
Why Your Pledge of Financial Support Matters

Every spring we canvass our members and friends for a pledge of financial support for the upcoming fiscal year. Ours is a voluntary organization; consequently, your pledge of support is critical to the continuing viability of the church. We cannot plan a budget for the next fiscal year without knowing how much money our members are willing to pledge. Unlike some other church denominations, we do not receive any money from a national organization. One benefit of this is that Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church is governed by its members, not a church hierarchy. We should be proud that our locally run church mirrors our democratic values as Americans. But the price of that freedom is that the members must support the church. As you can see from the pie chart below, 74% of our income comes from members' support:



You can also see from the chart that 18% of our income comes from facility rental. The two largest rentals are the parking lot rental to Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital and the Wild Child Playschool. To increase our financial security, we need to decrease our reliance on facility rental income to support regular church operations, and instead devote rental income to maintenance and improvements. If we ever expect to grow our church, we'll need extra money to fund improvements to our physical plant. For example, wouldn't it be nice to expand the church lobby, so we can have a larger, more comfortable coffee hour after church services?

Despite the pandemic, which limited in person services, our fixed operating costs declined very, very little. As you can see from the following pie chart, most of our expenditures are for staff salaries, which continue regardless of whether we are meeting in person or via Zoom.



Personnel expenses total 68% of our operating budget. Although Building and Grounds totaled only 5% of the budget last year, several years ago we borrowed \$93,000 for an urgent roof repair. A balloon payment of the \$30,000 balance will become due in the next fiscal year. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to pay off that remaining debt, instead of refinancing the loan?

Rev. Alex gave a sermon in December, talking about our church as an "oasis", a sacred place where we find sustenance and renewal. It's a place for our never-ending spiritual and personal growth. It's a place where we bring our children to acquire good values to take into adulthood. It's a place where friendships and acquaintances delight us and enrich our lives. It's a place where we grieve and memorialize the people we have lost. This "oasis" didn't just magically appear. It is a gift from previous members, that most of us don't even know, who spent their resources to build and to maintain something wonderful that we enjoy today.

This year's Canvass theme is "Pay It Forward", recognizing the profound gratitude we have for this beloved community and calling members to make a generous pledge to support it. Pay it forward. Pay our share forward so that our church will continue to be the oasis that sustains and renews us all. Thank you.

The Canvass Committee

Jerry Herron, Chuck Palmer, Rudy Wedenoja, and Marsha Zeller

Get Ready for the Circle Church Coffeehouse Night! Friday, March 18 from 7-10 p.m.

If you've been craving community and fun — and some great live music — we have just the event for you. We're hosting an adults-only evening of eclectic musical acts inside the sanctuary and a chance to connect with new and old friends by the cozy outdoor fires.

We'll provide coffee, tea, hot cocoa and a few light snacks. (Feel free to BYO alcoholic drinks, just bring a cup with a lid if you plan to bring your drink inside!)

Check out the [Facebook event](#) on the GPUC Facebook page. RSVP that you're going so your friends will know, and feel free to share it to invite people. All are welcome at the Circle Church Coffeehouse!

Contact Maurya Kay or Michelle Scobie with any questions.

GROSSE POINTE UNITARIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

Circle Church Coffeehouse

Live Music + Cozy Drinks

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18
7-10 PM**

INDOORS & OUTDOORS AT GPUC
(AKA THE CIRCLE CHURCH)
17150 MAUMEE, GROSSE POINTE

\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION
PROCEEDS BENEFIT
FREEDOM HOUSE DETROIT &
THE RUTH ELLIS CENTER

COVID SAFETY: VACCINATION REQUIRED +
MASKS REQUIRED INDOORS

SCAN FOR DETAILS
OR VISIT GPUUC.ORG



Thank you to the GPUC Alliance

The board of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the GPUC Alliance for its over 80 years of service to the church and local community. [Click this link to read the article...](#)



Newly formed Earth Justice Subcommittee!

The newest committee at the GPUUC falls within the overall intentions of the Social Justice Committee, and this is the Earth Justice Sub-Committee. Teresa Ramsey and Samuel Pruitt are getting this started now and invite anyone in our congregation to consider joining us on this committee.

Photo by [SOCIAL . C U Ton Unsplash](#)

We now have a page on the GPUUC.org website under “What We Do.” The focus this committee wants to take is to educate about what is going on locally and globally, and what each of us can do as individuals, families, citizens that is practical and effective in making a difference.

One of the immediate requests we want to make in case you don't read any further, is to ask anyone that eats vegan, enjoys and has access to vegan recipes, to submit as many recipes as you want to by March 15, 2022 to teresa.ramsey510@gmail.com. Please include your name, the source of the recipe (especially if its an original), a photo of the prepared food, and contact information in case I cannot understand some directions.

Looking ahead, here are some basic goals:

1. **“End of your fork” initiative:** bringing awareness about the impact of simply eating lighter on the food chain—a plant based diet. The Youth at GPUUC are practicing a ‘Meatless Monday’ and their Buddha Bowl experiences look delicious! We want to put together a delicious tried and true recipe book for our congregation and have it posted on our webpage for everyone to print out.
2. **“Single Use Plastics Must Go” initiative:** the use of grocery bags that are thin plastic and wind up being tossed in the trash, plastic wrap, zip lock bags, etc. have enormous implications to marine life, to the piling up of trash in rivers, lakes, the oceans, and break down in to microscopic pieces that wind up in the gut of marine life—and cause illness and death. Also, the people that live by the petrochemical plants that produce that plastic are ill, and struggling. We will be going into this more as the weeks unfold.
3. **Climate Reality:** this is a big one. Maybe the biggest threat to everything we may do to aim and work towards living fulfilling lives and preparing for fulfilling lives for future generations. Samuel Pruitt is especially prepared to educate and guide us to steps to help bring balance and restoration. Samuel will be giving a presentation in late April about Climate Reality. Samuel will talk about the science of the climate crisis, and show the impacts and talk about the solutions in the slide show presentation. He will use slides put together by the Former Vice President Mr. Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project. Samuel was trained virtually by the Climate Reality Project and Mr. Al Gore.
4. **Locally, we want to learn about what is going on with Lake St. Clair, and the Great Lakes Water Authority issues.** Much more about this later.

Please send those recipes, please check us out at www.gpuuc.org, and please join our committee!

*Respectfully,
Teresa Ramsey, Samuel Pruitt*

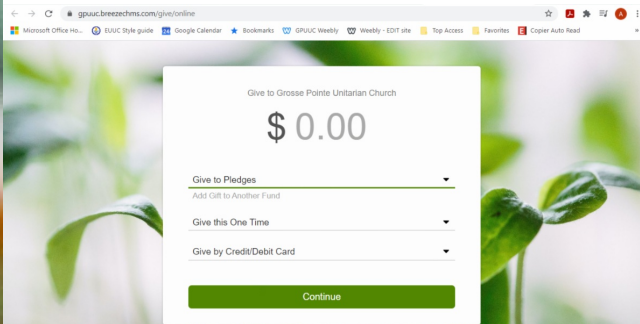
Giving Made Easy Thanks to Breeze!

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!](#)

RESALE SHOP NEWS!!!

The Resale Shop will reopen on
Wednesday, March 2nd!!

We look forward to seeing our loyal customers and to take in new merchandise. All those entering the Shop must wear a mask.

We remind our donors and consigners that we accept two small boxes or bags from each person per week.

Our Shop hours are Wednesdays, accepting merchandise from 9 am - 2 pm, opening Sale rooms from 10 am - 3 pm.

Our sale rooms will be open on the last Thursday of each month from 7 - 9 pm. ***Come shop with us!***



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@gpuc.us or (313) 881-0420. Thank you for sharing your remembrances of special occasions and important people in your life.

Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

When you return to church, please consider bringing donations of nonperishable food and toiletries with you. GPUC is a regular donator to Crossroads East, the local branch of the social

services nonprofit Crossroads.

Monetary donations are used to purchase fruits, veggies, bread, milk, and eggs. Thank you for your help. Our donations are greatly appreciated by the staff and clients!

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.

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.

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.

SAVE THE DATE! ***SOLO PIANO CONCERT — JOSEPH PALAZZOLO***

I am happy to say that I will be presenting another solo concert fundraiser for the church in April. Please put a placeholder on your calendar for:

Saturday, April 23, 2022
4:00 p.m. at GPUC

I will be performing my trademark mix of genres and styles, along with interesting commentary on what was going on in each composer's life when he composed the music.

This performance is both in person at GPUC as well as online.

\$20 Presale
\$25 At the Door

Info about tickets to come....Stay tuned!

Note from Joan Hines in response to her 90th Birthday!

You may recall we sent out an email to the congregation to send birthday cards to Joan for her 90th birthday. So in response to the overwhelming amount of cards received, she has sent us this message for us all:

"The shock of reaching ninety years (in one piece) was eased by the many birthday cards I received from church friends. Thank you for your thoughtfulness." - Joan Hines

A CELTIC CELEBRATION OF SONG

This concert will not only have the choir singing rousing, poignant, and beautiful Celtic music, but we will even have a bagpiper! Even if you don't like bagpipes, you will enjoy the rest of it. I would love to see you there.

Veronica Smith



**A Celtic
Celebration of Song**

A concert full of musical treasures
from the Celtic lands

**Saturday,
March 12, 7:30 pm**
Grosse Pointe
United Methodist Church
211 Moross Road
Grosse Pointe Farms

Sunday, March 13, 3:00 pm
Ss. Peter & Paul Jesuit Church
629 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit

MINI-AUCTION, "SPRING FORWARD, GPUC"

**May 1-May 16
NOW COLLECTING DONATIONS**

Thanks to all of you who helped make last year's very first Virtual Live Auction a smashing success! For a while now, we've been holding a smaller version of the auction in alternate years. Soon you will be hearing from Robin Ramsay asking you to donate to the 2022 MINI-AUCTION. Please be generous.

You can repeat something you've donated in the past or try something new. Social events tend to earn the most. You could try a get-together outdoors in Spring, Summer or Fall. If you don't want to use your home, the Memorial Garden is a great place for an event. Also, the parks have facilities: GP Park has a bocce ball court and a volleyball court, for instance. Food is also very popular: Consider making a meal to deliver or a sweet treat. Or maybe you have a talent you'd like to share with someone, a special item you think someone will love, or a gift-certificate to your favorite place. Questions or Donations: Contact Robin Ramsay at rjramsay@comcast.net.

SPRING FORWARD
2022 ONLINE SILENT AUCTION
Help Us Grow!
GPUC
BIDDING
BEGINS SUNDAY MAY 1
ENDS MONDAY MAY 16
CharityAuction.bid/SpringForwardGPUC

UU Ministry for Earth News

SPRING FOR CHANGE!!!!

Link to the website: <https://www.uumfe.org/resources/spring-for-change-2022/>

Get Rooted, Get Ready!

**Spring for Change - A Season of Sacred Activism
March 20 - May 22, 2022**

Join Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth and collaborative partners in a season of spiritual grounding and community action!

3/20 SPRING EQUINOX DINNER CHURCH

Nourish your body and spirit in this evening



Nourish your body and spirit in this evening worship & virtual community dinner event

3/22 CONGREGATIONAL CLIMATE LEADERS CONVERGENCE

Virtual day of networking & support for local UU climate organizing with Side With Love & Green Sanctuary 2030

& WORLD WATER DAY

3/23 ECOLOGY AS SCRIPTURE

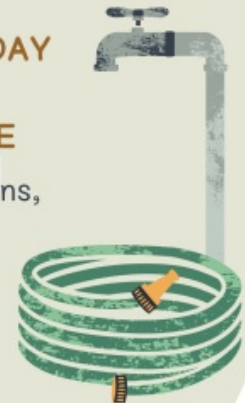
Workshop for ministers, seminarians, religious educators & lay leaders

3/26, 4/2 & 4/9

UU YOUNG ADULTS

CLIMATE JUSTICE TRAINING SERIES

Covering Ecological Grief, Jail Support, and Health and Wellness for the Moment and for the Future



4/22 EARTH DAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

9am PT / 10 MT / 11 CT / 12 ET

4/22 - 5/1

"DISPLACEMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS: ALL IN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE"

INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR

A week of virtual learning & community building for justice with UU Office at the United Nations, UU Ministry for Earth, UUSC, Side With Love, & more!



& 4/22 - 5/1

"SACRED TRUST: OUR CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO A LIVEABLE FUTURE" FAITH CLIMATE ACTION WEEK

w/ Interfaith Power & Light & Partners

5/22 BIODIVERSITY SUNDAY

Celebrate the Web of Life with a special worship service &/or eco-art build at your congregation!





MidAmerica UUA Regional News

MidAmerica UUA Regional Assembly

Registration link: <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra/2022>



The MidAmerica Region is where UUs visibly live our faith, create connections, grow our membership, and welcome all persons who share our UU values.



RA 2022 Registration Now Open!



Friends,

Registration is now open for virtual MidAmerica Regional Assembly (Saturday, April 30, 2022, 10AM – 2PM ET / 9AM – 1PM CT). There is a sliding fee scale between 25.00 to \$50.00 and scholarships are available. Please register on our [RA registration page!](#)

Our keynote speaker, UU educator, consultant, and facilitator **CB Beal**, will present “The Glass is Refillable: Pandemic Exhaustion, Lifelong Faith Formation, and Preemptive Radical Inclusion.” The day will feature worship, keynote presentation and conversation, lunch break, business meeting, and time for social connection. This year we will be using the **Whova** platform, which improves security, accessibility, and ease of use. Upon registration, all participants will receive information on how to access Whova and learn how to get the most out of it.

We look forward to seeing you there!



STAY CONNECTED

midamerica@uua.org

312-636-9724

[uua.org/midamerica](https://www.uua.org/midamerica)

MidAmerica UUA Regional Business Meeting

Call to the Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica UUA Region 2022 links are:

[Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region 2022 PDF](#)

WEBSITE

<https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra/2022/2022-business-meeting>

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.

Photo by Milada Vigerova on Unsplash

**Contact information:
Rebekah Agnew, LLPC**

Gentle Yoga

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.

This session will be **a heart opening practice.**

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 you can pay through 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, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31



Healing Clinic and Meditation

Healing Clinic and Meditation
Third Thursday of the month
March 17, 7- 8:30PM

Join us for this in-person community event, every 3rd Thursday of the monthly, 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. Then Pranic Healers offer mini healing sessions for relief from physical and/or emotional issues.

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

NOTE: If you are symptomatic or not feeling well please stay home. You may schedule a distant healing session. Please call or text if you are requiring distant healing. Carrie 586-943-4404

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>

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