

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

September 2022

October 2022 Newsletter Deadline

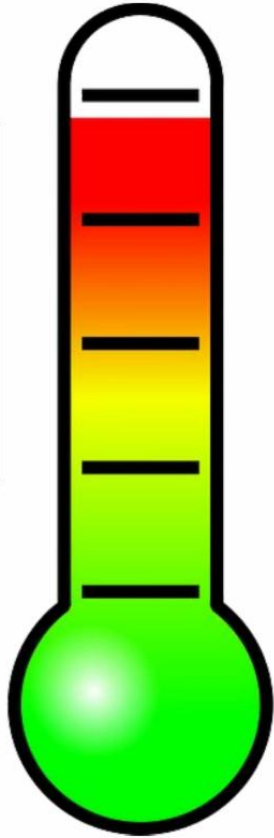
Mark your calendars and please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by

Wednesday, September 21st

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

Upcoming Services

Current
community
spread is
high



GPUC COVID GUIDELINES

Based on Wayne County community guidelines tracked on www.covid.cdc.gov

All members attending in person must have COVID vaccines up to date – virtual option also available. It is the expectation that all members and visitors would respectfully stay home or get tested if any question of active infection.

Critical high spread – board will determine if appropriate to be all virtual

High spread – N95 type mask highly recommend for in-person

Medium spread – Mask use recommended in-person --especially if you are at high risk for severe illness

Low spread – Mask use to your comfort level



Church COVID vaccination/booster and masking policies

It has been two years since the pandemic was declared, and our church began to worship on Zoom and to "mask up" to keep our beloved community safe. Throughout the pandemic, we have continuously updated our policies and will monitor the latest guidance from the CDC on the bivalent booster that will soon be available. Currently, we require vaccinations including boosters for all individuals who join our Sunday Services in the church and for the GPUC staff. We offer hybrid services (in-person and on Zoom) each Sunday to ensure the most vulnerable among us can participate if they are not comfortable joining in person. We make N95 masks available at the church. Each Friday we send out an email blast that identifies the current CDC masking guidelines for each community based on the local COVID positivity rates. Thank you for your continued attention to this matter and your respect for the wishes of at-risk congregants if they prefer masking.

The GPUC Board

Next Board Meeting: Monday, September 12th

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, September 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.

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.

September 4, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Siding With Love"*

Worship Leader: Anne Roberts

In this complicated day and age where so many unloving thoughts and actions occur, these are reflections on how to love productively. The service will include several love songs.

September 11, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Ingathering: Unitarian Universalism Begins Where the Sidewalk Ends"*

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

Welcome back! We are so excited to be beginning a new church year after these stressful years we've been through. Let's hope we return to relative normalcy this year... And, we are excited to start the new church year with our usual Intergenerational Ingathering. During this service, we will listen to, and reflect upon, the wit and wisdom of Shel Silverstein. Hope you can join us!

September 18, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: TBD

During The Great Awakening, preacher Johnathan Edwards preached a famous sermon entitled, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." The title is rather self-explanatory... Dr. Riegel is going to give a UU rebuttal to Edward's sermon. Perhaps, he will suggest, it's time we UUs start talking about what it means for us sinners to be in the hands of a loving God. Could such a message be more timely for today's world? (P.S. Want to introduce a friend to our church. This would be a good sermon for introducing someone to UUism.)

September 25, 2022

10:30 AM

Sermon: "God for the Godless"

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: TBD

Many UUs count themselves among the growing number of agnostics and atheists in this country. During my thirty years of ministry, I've noticed that such people spend more time celebrating the loss of religious belief than they do constructing what religion means for them in a Godless universe. In this sermon, Dr. Riegel is going to suggest a "God" for the Godless. Maybe it's time to get on with being religious again — after all, this is a "church".

Alexander's Meander



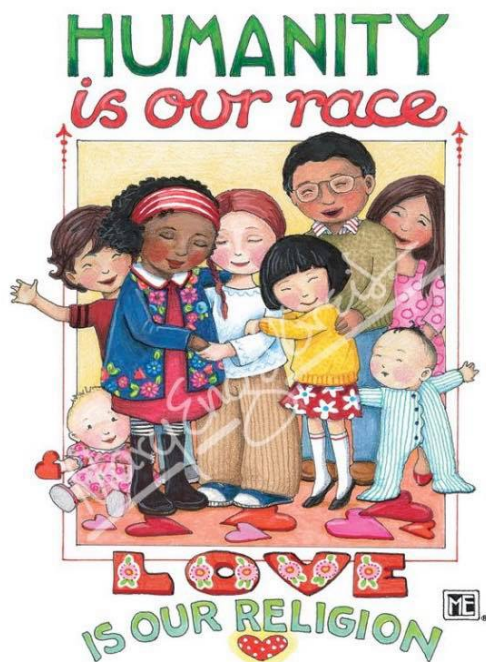
Well, another Summer wanes and the bounty of Autumn waxes. I am so looking forward to a return to normal this church year. It is my hope that most everyone is up to date on their Covid vaccines and plans to attend church in person this Fall. It just isn't quite the same without our beloved community gathering together in three-dimensional time and space!

As the new church year approaches, I want to highlight that the Adult Ed program is adopting a new format this year, *for which it would very much appreciate your support*, especially in getting word out about our upcoming offerings. It begins with a panel discussion on Thursday evening, September 29th (see other info from the committee in this newsletter) and continues with five consecutive Thursday evening programs, starting October 13th.

In churches I've served in the past, the Adult Ed program became a significant source of new membership. As our church faces a serious demographic shift, growth has become vital to GPUC's well-being. So, please help the Adult Ed program see the kind of success that is possible, both by your participation in programs and by spreading the word, via Facebook, word of mouth, etc.

In a different vein, as each new year begins, I usually put out a call for suggested sermon topics, in the event you are chomping at the bit to hear me wax prosaic on a particular topic. If so, email me (alexgpuc@gmail.com) and let me know what you're thinking. No promises, but I usually manage turn requests into sermon fodder.

Namaste,



Welcome to the 2022-23 Religious Education Program! This church school year we are back in person! We are creating new ways to learn and be together. We will be holding classes in person, outside, and we will go on field trips. We have a resilience we did not know we had. We are UU's and we can do this. I know we are living with tremendous uncertainty about life and what life will be like next year again. Most of all I have adjusted to being flexible and grateful for our church family and ways to stay together.

I do need help. This is what you can do: teach classes, record stories, write lessons, help with care packages and art projects, and help find stories. First parent meeting is September 18 after church in room 2.

Our classes are designed as a three-year pillar system, beginning with Unitarian Universalism, followed by Abrahamic Faith religions, and ending with World Religions. For the 2022-23 year we will be studying **Abrahamic Faiths**. We will be offering OWL classes and the 6-12 graders are planning a trip to Boston in June, 2023, and a Holiday Pageant. Registration forms and volunteer sheets have been sent by email and you can register and pay online at <https://www.gpuuc.org/childrens-religious-education-registration-form.html>, go to Sunday School and you can find the registration form and pay button. Please send in your forms ASAP. We have a special treat for each student this year. Each registered student will receive a TCBY gift card!!!



Our possibilities may change as the year goes along. For now, we will be outside & inside for students, events, talk, text and email as much as we can. My phone number is 313-590-2464 or email me at julieartis@hotmail.com.

Dates to Remember

RE Registration Forms due now Sunday, September 11 first Sunday with fellowship outside with donuts and coffee

Sunday, September 11, Boston meeting for all 6-12 grade parents and students after church

Sunday, September 18, All Parents meeting after church in room 2

Sunday, October 23, TBA, outside event

My joy, my grief, my hope, my love, Did all within this circle move!
— Edmund Waller

Peace,
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

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church



Adult Religious Education

GPUC Fall Speakers Series

All events live, in person in the GPUC Sanctuary, no Zoom option

- **Sept. 29: Interfaith Panel**

A panel of speakers will address these questions:

- What is the meaning of life?
- Where do ethics come from?
- What is truth?
- How does your faith tradition view justice?

The panel will be followed by a Q&A session

- **Oct. 13: Science and Mysticism**

*A conversation with Rev. Alex Reigel
and Professor Bill Moore*

- **Oct. 20: Literature and Life**

Professor Jerry Herron lecture

- **Oct. 27: Water Art**

Freda Giblin lecture using art of the DIA

- **Nov. 3: To Be Determined**

- **Nov. 10: Unlocking the Mystery of Sufi Poetry**

Rev. Alex Reigel lecture

These are weekly events, from 7:30-9:00pm (*hour presentation followed by Q&A*)

ARE will provide bottled water for participants

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church | 17150 Maumee Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
phone: 313-881-0420 | email: officegpuc@gmail.com | web: gpuuc.org

Fall Speaker Series Link: https://bit.ly/gpucARE_Fall2022



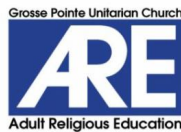
Ideas Wanted!

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

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

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

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



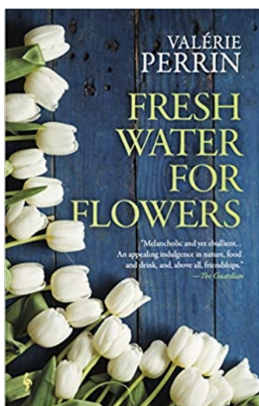
We
Donut
know what
we would do
without you

Sunday, September 11th

**WELCOME BACK
SUNDAY!**

Join us for donuts,
cider, coffee & tea

Sponsored by Fellowship Committee



Book Discussion Group News Tuesday, September 20th, at 6 pm

The book selections, meeting dates, and discussion leaders for the 2022-23 season are complete, and the list has been sent to all active members of the discussion group. Any non-members wanting the list and/or wanting to join the group should contact Juli Moore (jdmoore1415@gmail.com). The next gathering of the group will be September 20th at 6 pm at the church, either in the Annex or in the garden, weather permitting. Judith LeBeau will lead a discussion of Valerie Perrin's *Fresh Water for Flowers*. All are welcome.

Reversing *Runaway* Inequality



The Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Adult Education Committee
presents a workshop based on the best selling book
Runaway Inequality by Les Leopold,
co-founder of NYC's Labor Institute.

Learn more about developing successful
grassroots campaigns for social and economic justice.
This is a solutions-oriented guide to the wide-ranging
problems associated with economic inequality in the U.S.

The workshop will cover:

- The income and wealth gap
- The historical context for social justice movements
and contemporary organizing
- Learning skills to create effective campaigns and actions
- Developing concrete tools to use in your own work and
your upcoming 2022 election activity

Receive a complimentary copy of Les Leopold's book, *Runaway Inequality*

Saturday October 1, 2022
9am-3pm

Doors will open at 8:30am.

Morning refreshments and a light lunch included.

Workshop is Free!

But you must register — Limited to 30 participants

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/gpucARE-Oct0122>

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

17150 Maumee Ave.

Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230

for more information, please call

313-881-0420

or email: officegpuc@gmail.com

Reversing Runaway Inequality Link: <https://bit.ly/gpucARE-Oct0122>



Dueling Pianos!!! Saturday, October 22nd, at 4 p.m.

Anne Roberts and Joseph Palazzolo will once again perform a concert for two pianos on Saturday, October 22nd, at 4 p.m. The concert will be live at the church, but will also be available on Zoom. So please mark your calendars for this special event which raises money for the church and showcases the talents of our music director, Joseph, and long standing member, Anne. The program will include some musical favorites, Malaguena, Danse Macabre, an exciting Mozart piece, two selections from Aaron Copland's "Rodeo", a familiar and popular blues piece, and more. **Tickets will be available when the new church year resumes on Sunday, September 11.** Stay tuned for more information!

Photo by [Julia Jin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

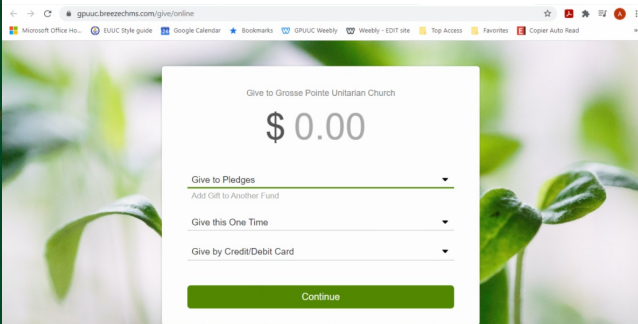
Giving Made Easy Thanks to Breeze!

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!](#)



GPUC Lay Pastoral Committee

Caring Hands Up



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-Chairs: Carol Ghesquire, Lynn Rehahn
Margo Bishop
Susie Boynton
Karin Garrett
Lynn Baker-Hunter

JoAnn Kelly
Linda Lawrence
Mary Morshead
Kathleen Ruhl
Janet Weber

RESALE SHOP NEWS!!!

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.

Drop off your donations (two small boxes or bags per week, please!) on Wednesdays from 9 am - 2 pm and stay to shop with us from 10 am – 3 pm.

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



Sunday Morning Flowers

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

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

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



Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

GPUC is a regular contributor to Crossroads East, the local branch of the social services nonprofit Crossroads. Next time you're grabbing groceries, please consider picking up a few nonperishable items for our FOOD SHARING collection. Or, if you prefer, monetary donations

are extremely helpful. As we all know, grocery money does not stretch nearly as far these days. We use the money we receive to purchase produce, milk, eggs, and bread for Crossroads East's clients. Our donations are always greatly appreciated by the staff and clients!

Our donations are always 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.

More GPUC Items



GPUC 2022-23 Directory

Ameera will be sending out notices to confirm information for the printed copies of the church directory. Directories are typically ready for distribution in Mid-Late October.

Please submit any changes between now and Wednesday, September 21st.

Please, indicate if you would like a physical and/or PDF copy. For those that request physical copies, please indicate whether you would like to receive it by snail mail or will be picking up in person at the church.

Please Note (GPUC Members): *For the most up to date information, please visit the Members Only section on the [church website](#).*

Email: officegpuc@gmail.com for help with accessing the directory and to submit any changes.

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.

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](#) 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

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.

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, September 1, 8, 15 & 29. NO YOGA ON SEPTEMBER 22.

Contact Information

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

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