

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*

April 2018

Upcoming Services

April 1, 2018 10:30 AM

There's Always a Stone

Worship Leader: Dr. Alex Riegel Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer

Part of the Easter story is that when Jesus was buried - an understandably dark event for the believing world - a large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to his tomb. Miraculously, when the three women (all named Mary) went to visit the tomb they found the stone rolled away! What motivation might this story give us for our own lives?

April 8, 2018 10:30 AM

The Moral Injury of an Unjust War

Worship Leader: Dick Olson Worship Associate: Suzanne Ross

Dick Olson reports back from a trip of reconciliation to Vietnam last November led by Dr. Ed Tick, who heads Soldier's Heart, an organization helping veterans deal with the traumatic after effects of their lives from the Vietnam War and other wars.

April 15, 2018 10:30 AM

State of the Church Address

Worship Leader: Dr. Alex Riegel Worship Associate: Joe Buttiglieri

Every so often (USUALLY once a year) I give a State of the Church address. This year's state of the church address is particularly important as our beloved community faces many changes (mostly good ones!) that pose particular challenges to us. Please make it a point to attend this Sunday as I have some important thoughts to place before you. **ALSO**, following coffee hour there will be a one hour congregational meeting to discuss the results of the Program subcommittee's work (part of our Visioning process that began last year, along with the Facility subcommittee), during which we will look for feedback/further ideas about the direction of GPUC's future programming efforts

April 22, 2018 10:30 AM

Let's Talk about Race

Worship Leader: Rev. Kimi Riegel Worship Associate: Janet Weber

As white people we haven't had to face up to what it means to be white. White is just normal, the way it's supposed to be. Eliminating racism will be difficult until we can understand white supremacy and white fragility and how they perpetuate each other.

April 29, 2018 10:30 AM

Earth Day: Rooted in Love

Worship Leader: Dr. Alex Riegel Worship Assoc.: Meghan Boomhower

This Earth Day will be an intergenerational service in which we will be honoring trees. Trees play a largely unacknowledged but incredibly important role in the biosphere, especially in the maintenance of human life on the planet. As part of this service (so watch the weather!) we will be dedicating and planting trees for a number of reasons (in remembrance, in honor of, or for other reasons). If you would like us to plant a tree in recognition of

In This Issue

[Upcoming Services](#)
[Alexander's Meander](#)
[Religious Education](#)

Announcements

[Fellowship Committee](#)
[Church Grounds](#)
[Building Stewards Needed](#)
[Alliance News](#)
[UU Crafters](#)
[Writers Recital](#)
[Resale Shop Sale](#)
[Flowers](#)
[Jr/Sr Fundraiser](#)

[UU General Assembly](#)

Upcoming Events

[Sun Apr 1 Food Sharing](#)
[Sun Apr 8 Chamber Music](#)
[Tue Apr 10 Alliance Luncheon](#)
[Fri-Sat Apr 13 & 14 The Aramaic Jesus](#)
[Sun Apr 15 Congregational Meeting](#)
[Sun Apr 15 Yoga Nidra](#)
[Tue Apr 17 UU Crafters](#)
[Wed Apr 18 Book Club](#)
[Sun Apr 21 Grounds Cleanup](#)
[Tue Apr 24 UU](#)

Alexander's Meander



Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story that is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see. - CS Lewis

Easter and Christmas are the two Christian holidays that most pull at the heartstrings of many Unitarian Universalists. For while we long ago rejected the theology that underpins these holidays, there is an emotional attachment to them nonetheless: if only the map and the path for our lives in this world were truly laid out for us as the tradition claims... but alas...

Nevertheless, we are not without our own brand of the miraculous. While we may not believe in virgin births and resurrections, the sacred depth of nature has its own way of leaving us awe-struck! It is in this awe-struckness that we can still participate in the celebration of miracles.

For us this Easter season can be an opportunity to reflect upon the dark nights of our souls and how we might find our own form of deliverance from them. Abandoning the resurrection theme, we can nevertheless find salvation in the miracles that abound out of the sacred depths of nature.

Indeed, to allow oneself to be absorbed in nature's miraculous expression of herself can free us from our daily struggles - at least for a time. This can remind us that there is so much more to life than the challenges upon which our minds fixate. There is the heart's response to the wonder of it all!

With this in mind, I encourage you to take time this Easter season to pause and reflect before the miraculous: a plant sprouting where it is least expected, the sound of new life chirping overhead, or caterpillar that seems to emerge from the impossibility of a long cold winter. Go ahead. Get lost in the wonder of it all. Such immersion trumps all creed!

Namaste,

Alex

Religious Education News



"Generosity is the heart of humanity" Lailah Gifly Akita

National Volunteer month is **April**. The United States instills volunteerism at a young age. Many young people during the summer months volunteer at camps. There are after school programs designed for volunteerism. Rural ambulance and fire departments depend on volunteers. Underprivileged people receive much needed medical care thanks to doctors, nurses and other medical staff. We have groups that deliver meals to families that can no longer cook. We have soup kitchens staffed by volunteers. Our beautiful church home is run by volunteers and April (really any time) is the time to shout out THANK YOU!

Here is a partial list of the many jobs our volunteers fulfill for Religious Education. We have RE-curriculum writers, church pals, teachers, committee members, OWL teachers, cleaners, special event planners, social justice planners, costume planners and buyers of food and supplies. We could not have our Religious Education program without all of you. Thank you again for all you do.

Five reasons to volunteer at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

1. **Gain new skills**
2. **Meet new people**
3. **Make a difference**
4. **Give back to the community**

5. Feel valued and be part of the team

So, call GPUC and ask what you can do. We need your help and love!

Religious Education Lessons:

The **Nursery** will be open at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning. We have the same loving childcare workers to provide a safe and caring place for our young UU's. We have a pot of coffee for parents to enjoy and take the time to get to know each other.

Lower and Upper Elementary students will continue their study of World Religions. We also have two parents, Matt Whitwell and Everett Keyser working through the Boy Scouts of America helping our boys and girls earn a UU badge for Scouts. If your child is interested, please contact Matt and Everett.

The Michigan Girl Scout Council is providing a workshop on Sat., April 28th at 9 a.m. to noon for all girls, K-6 grades. They will be working on the Girl Scout My Promise, My Faith for UU girls. If you are interested please register at www.gssem.org and go to the events calendar 4-28 MPMF to register. It is \$19 per girl along with the donation of two cans of food for Crossroads. There will be morning snack, crafts and discussion.

Junior students will continue their studies of World Religions and OWL classes. They are interested in all your cans and bottles to start planning a Boston trip, 2019!

Senior students are continuing their OWL classes. Senior students that are willing to help with the younger students can contact Mrs. Artis

Dates to Remember:

- April 8 - RE Committee Meeting, Room 7 in RE wing
- April 11 - Wednesday evening, Seder-6-9 p.m. in annex
- April 28 - Saturday morning, 9 a.m.-noon, G.S. Workshop
- April 29 - All Family Service

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

GPUC Vision Facilities Committee Update

Two subcommittees were formed after our new Vision Statement was adopted. One was to look at the programming requirements needed to fulfill our vision. The second was to determine the facility requirements necessary to fulfill our vision.

The Vision Facilities Committee has been meeting since last spring. We have completed a utilization study of the existing facilities, done a cook's tour of the facility, met with the board and several of the church committees. The Vision Programming Committee recently provided us their final report.

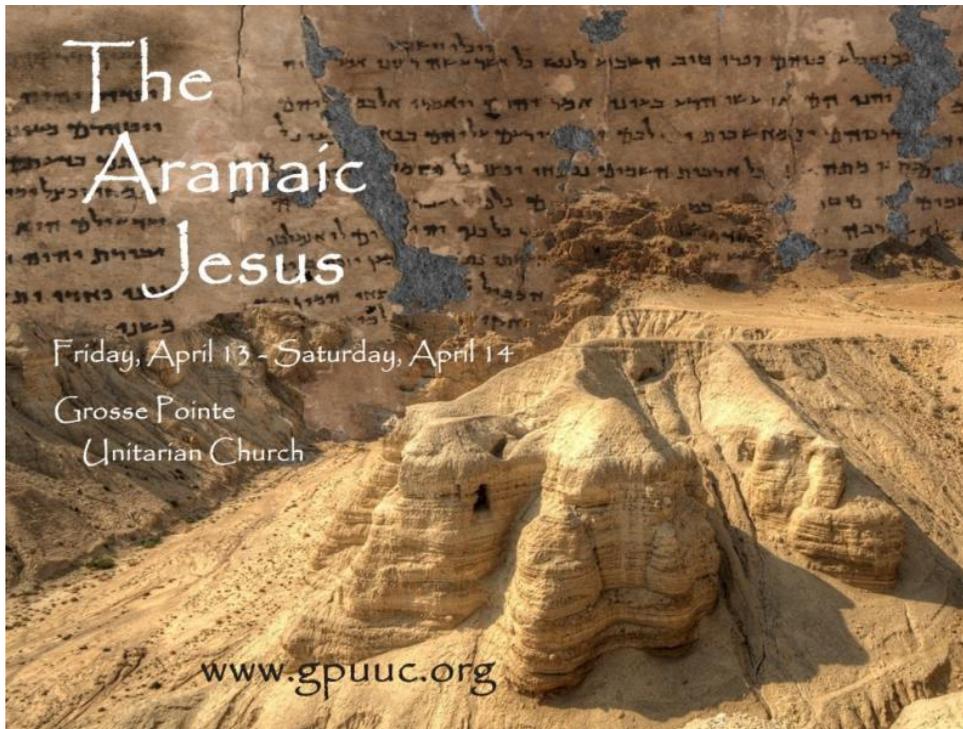


We have engaged a consulting architect and a consulting engineer to take the congregations requirements, gather additional requirements and provide alternatives for how to improve our facilities to better enable our vision. We have met with the architect, John Hill, several times and he is very excited about the project. In addition to being a highly qualified architect, John is a graduate of the GPUC RE program. He is the son of Karen and Dave Hill, past members of our congregation. John will be taking the congregations requirements, assessing our current structures and proposing multiple concepts, along with their cost estimates, for addressing our facility needs. The resulting concepts will be presented to the board and the congregation for their consideration.

If you would like to learn more about the process you may reach out to any of the committee members.

Lori Panzenhagen
Russ Chavey
John and Anne Roberts
Mark Franchett
Rudy Wedenoja
Chris Vadino

Chris Vadino & Rudy Wedenoja
Facilities Committee Co-Chairs



Based on the work of scholar Neil Douglas-Kloz, our presenter, Munira Elizabeth Reed will lead us to an understanding of The Lord's Prayer in accordance with the original Aramaic language that Jesus spoke.

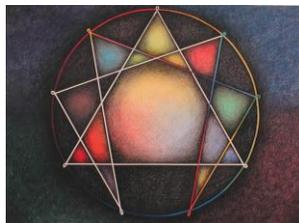
Friday April 13 Evening Introduction (7 - 8:30pm - *free and open to the public*) - Come for a taste of Aramaic and a new view of Jesus.

Saturday Workshop (9am - 5pm, lunch break from 12:30 - 2pm) - We will look closely at the language Jesus spoke, how it is interpreted, and gain a new perspective on his message. We will chant, move, and sit together as we experience the Lord's Prayer from a fresh and personal perspective.

Saturday Evening (7 - 8pm - *free and open to the public*) - Chanting and Meditation

Workshop Tickets - \$25 in advance through website (www.gpuuc.org/adult-religious-education) or through the church office; \$35 at the door. ***NOTE** - *The Friday and Saturday evening events are free and open to the public.*

Introduction to Enneagram



**Saturdays, May 12, 19 and June 2, from 9am - noon
at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church**

The Enneagram is a psycho-spiritual tool that combines an exquisite psychological system with traditional spiritual practices in order to bring about personal transformation.

As a psychological tool the Enneagram helps us discover the nature of our personal conditioning, our mental, emotional, and bodily habits. Further, the Enneagram helps us discover our instinctual tendencies, i.e., how we engage the world in regard to three basic survival needs: self-preservation, social interactions, and one to one interactions.

As a spiritual tool the Enneagram helps us discover the ways in which our personal conditioning is an impediment to spiritual experience. Emphasizing the two self system (egoic self/spiritual self) that is the basis of all contemplative teaching and spiritual practice, we examine the ways in which spiritual practices help us to manage the conditioned self in order to move beyond it, in the direction of deeper spiritual experience. As the mystic poet Hafez says:

*Between the lover and the Beloved there must be no veil.
Thou thyself art thine own veil, Hafez.
Get out of the way!*

In sum, as both a psychological and spiritual tool the Enneagram brings about personal transformation through the relaxation of the conditioned self, which in turn brings us into deeper contact with Spirit.

Instructor: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Cost: Free to members of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. All others \$90.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

[To register, contact Dr. Riegel: alexgpuc@gmail.com]

The **Fellowship Committee** is working on a Chili/Cookoff on a Sunday after church. If you think you are a master chili cook or master baker, please contact Jill Crane for details.

Spring Grounds Cleanup

Aren't we all anxiously awaiting the return of spring weather? How about planning now to spend some time outdoors at our church with your fellow UU's in the fresh air and sunshine.* Saturday April 21 from 9-11a.m. we will have our annual spring grounds cleanup. Bring your gloves, a rake and enthusiasm as we spruce up the church grounds once again.

*sun not included

Alliance News

The Alliance will present a luncheon/program on Tuesday, April 10 at Noon in the Annex. Suzanne Bilek will present a power point program titled 'Public Art and Civic Pride'. She will be showing some of Detroit's most beautiful monuments. This is Suzanne's second presentation for the Alliance. Her first was a circle tour of Lake Superior. A pizza and salad lunch will be served. Cost of the luncheon will be \$7.00. All church members, friends and guests are welcome. RSVP to Mary Morshead 313 885-2259 or mmorshead@yahoo.com.

First Sunday Food Sharing - April 1 Easter Sunday

Our next opportunity for Food Sharing will be **Sunday, April 1, Easter Sunday**. The following Food Sharing will be **Sunday, May 6**.

Donations of non-perishables are taken to **Crossroads East**, located in Salem Lutheran Church on Moross. They greatly appreciate our donations of peanut butter, breakfast foods, canned fruits, veggies, soups, etc. They also gladly accept donations of toiletry items, such as toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.

If you prefer to donate monetarily, your contributions are used to purchase eggs, milk, bread, and produce. This is actually a very helpful option, as not many organizations bring these types of foods.

Thank you for the continued generosity. The staff and clients at Crossroads East are very thankful for our donations!

Yoga Nidra with Jen Norber, RYT on Sunday, April 15th from 1:30 -2:30pm (new times)

Come experience Yoga Nidra - the Art of Conscious Relaxation. This is not an exercise class but a state of consciousness that can bring about healing and allow you to set true intentions for your life. Please bring a pillow and anything you need to relax as the session is done entirely laying down. \$10 cash or check only. Pre-registration requested but not required. Please email jennorber@yahoo.com to register or with any questions.

GPUC Writing Workshop

The GPUC Writing Workshop Writers have published a book. The authors of the book, Kaleidoscope, will be holding a book signing at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, at 7:00 pm., Friday, May 11th. The community is invited to enjoy refreshments, readings and discussions.

- Jean Dupuis includes a few chapters of her father's biography. Through diaries and research, Jean is getting to know the man who was her father.
- Karin Garrett wrote her memoir of growing in up in Denmark during the occupation of Germany.
- Linda Lawrence's whimsical stories will leave you smiling and pondering our human condition.
- Christian Kroeyr gives us a glimpse of the struggles with gender identity and gender expression.
- Zsombor Zoltan offers us a Unitarian view of if (when) artificial intelligence takes over the world.
- See how Carol Ghesquiere interprets the famous six-word short story, "For Sale. Baby Shoes. Never Worn."
- Read an excerpt from Mary Beth Smith's novel about a banker and the hardships his family suffers during the great Depression.
- Emily Marck includes a snippet of her fantasy/adventure series.

There are many more contributors from the church and from the community and they would like to share their tales with you.

GPUC Resale Shop Women's CLOTHING SALE 2/ \$1.00

2000+ Pieces of Women's Designer Clothing - Many with Price Tags-Never Worn

Sizes XS - M, some Large

Wednesday March 28 from 10am -3pm and Thursday, March 29 from 7pm -9pm in the GPUC Annex

UU Crafters

UU Crafters will meet on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, April 17th and 24th in the Annex 7-9pm. All are welcome to join in for an evening of social stitching (knit, crochet, quilting, needlepoint, etc.) and other small crafts. Check the church calendar on the website and the weekly email for any changes. Please contact Ann

Helm with any questions.

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club will present 'Feminine Approach IV' at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Laura Roelofs - violin, *Velda Kelly* - violin, *John Madison* - viola, *Nadine Deleury* - cello, *Daniel Thomas* - cello and *Stratus Ensemble: Joanna Goldstein* - flute, *Shane Jones* - percussion

This program is devoted to the works of women composers. The Ann Arbor-based *Stratus Ensemble* (flute and percussion) will make its CMSC debut performing *Hair, Cloth and Thread* by Valerie Coleman, composer and flutist with the *Imani Winds*. Also featured is Ethel Smyth's *String Quintet, Op. 1*, a very fresh and inventive quintet published in 1884 and written for 2 violins, viola and two cellos. Dame Ethel Smyth was a strong and creative British composer who was also known for her contribution to the suffragette movement.

As always, each piece will be introduced by one of the musicians and the performance will be followed by a delicious and friendly reception.

Church members pay only \$18 for adults, \$10 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door 248-474-8930 chambermusic@scarabclub.org, www.scarabclub.org/chambermusic

The Women's Book Discussion Group meets on Wednesday, April 18th at 5:30 pm in the church library.

All are welcome to attend!

Our next book is: **Hocus Pocus** by Kurt Vonnegut

Eugene Debs Hartke (named after the famous early 20th century Socialist working class leader) describes an odyssey from college professor to prison inmate to prison warden back again to prisoner in another of Vonnegut's bitter satirical explorations of how and where (and why) the American dream begins to die.

Employing his characteristic narrative device--a retrospective diary in which the protagonist retraces his life at its end, a disparate and disconnected series of events here in *Hocus Pocus* show Vonnegut with his mask off and his rhetorical devices unshielded. **Led by Susan Boynton**

Committee Chair Annual Reports Due April 27

Spring is here and our GPUC Annual meeting held on Sunday, May 20 is fast approaching. All Committee Chairpersons are asked to complete a committee report for inclusion in the Annual Report. Please submit your report no later than Friday, April 27 to Candy by email to: gpuc@gpuc.us. Each Committee's input will be compiled with the goal of completing the Annual Report for distribution no later than Monday, May 14.

Building Stewards Needed

GPUC rents its facilities to outside groups. It has been in the best interest of GPUC to supply an on-site 'Building Steward' to be present during these facility rentals. Providing guidance and safety for our visitors, building and grounds is the goal of a Building Steward. This position is to be staffed by members of GPUC who will be on site at functions that can last several hours. They will monitor all components of activities being held in our building facilities. A training session for this position is required; stewards will be paid for their services.

If you are interested in a building steward position please contact Candy Dunn in the church office at 313-881-0420 or gpuc@gpuc.us

RE Junior/Senior Fund Raiser: Returnable Bottle & Can Drive

Please help our GPUC Junior/Senior students raise funds for their various church programs and field trips. Please remember to bring in *clean* returnable bottles and cans and place them in the box marked: BOTTLES/CANS.

Thanks to your donations and participation, the returnable bottle and can drive has been a great success - *let's keep those returnable bottles & cans coming in!*

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Please consider recognizing or honoring someone dear or commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. Flowers add significantly to the ambiance on Sunday mornings. Please use the insert in the Sunday order of service or contact the church office to sign-up for a Sunday or two.

Let us know if you will bring your own arrangement or provide a check (minimum cost \$20) for Susan Hartz (our talented flower chairperson) to purchase and arrange the flowers.

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

UUA General Assembly 2018 - June 20-24, Kansas City, MO

General Assembly (GA) [registration](#) and [housing reservations](#) are now open online! Join us for the 2018 General Assembly to be held June 20-24 in Kansas City, MO. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through a democratic process. [Financial aid is available](#) if you apply by March 31.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by Friday, April 20 at noon. They should be sent to newsletter@gpuc.us.

Contact Information
Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
17150 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
Phone: 313-881-0420 Fax: 313-881-6430
Email: gpuc@gpuc.us
Website:
www.gpuuc.org
Editor: Rudy Wedenoja newsletter@gpuc.us