

*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**

## February 2018

### Upcoming Services

**February 4, 2018** **10:30 AM**

#### ***"Ones and Zeros"***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Phiwa Langeni** **Worship Associate: Maurya Kay**  
Dualisms are some of the biggest things wrong with our world today, yet they seem to underlie most of the systems by which we live and learn. How might we break free from the deadly grip of dualisms?

**February 11, 2018** **10:30 AM**

#### ***"Brokenness and Holy Glue"***

**Worship Ldr: Rev. John Corrado** **Worship Assoc: Chuck Palmer**  
Brokenness is a constant theme in life, from tea cups, to fingernails, to promises, to hearts. How can we break our brokenness?

**February 18, 2018** **10:30 AM**

#### ***"It's not the thing you fling..."***

**Worship Ldr.: Dr. Alex Riegel** **Worship Assoc.: Joseph Buttiglieri**  
Where do we find meaning in life? What is the carrot of satisfaction out in front of the donkey of our days? Hint: "It's not the thing you fling..." Join us as Dr. Riegel offers an answer to the timeless question, What is the meaning of life?

**February 25, 2018** **10:30 AM**

#### ***"Walk On: Cosmic Cycles Are Turning!"***

**Worship Leader: Dr Alex Riegel** **Worship Associate: Janet Weber**  
Life is not short on trials and tribulations. Everyone has struggles and burdens to bear. Sometimes this can make life seem overwhelming. Where do we turn at times like these? Join us as Dr. Riegel invokes the spirit of the Sufi poet Hafez, who encourages us to "walk on..."

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## Upcoming Events

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Alexander's Meander



Alex is away on Study Break from January 9 through February 13. In the event of an urgent pastoral matter, please contact Candy Dunn, Joseph Buttiglieri, or Russ Chavey. In turn, they will contact the Rev. Kimi Riegel, who is covering urgent matters in Alex's absence. [Please do not contact Kimi on your own behalf.]

## Religious Education News



*"There is no remedy for love but to love more." Henry David Thoreau*

February has the day, February 14 that is set aside for love. It is the perfect occasion for going within and glancing back with affection and understanding at your life journey and what you want to give your children. We have started our lessons on Buddhism and I would like to share a story from a group of stories from Buddhist teachings called **Stories from the Heart**. Here is the first story.

### **GIVING BLOOD**

A little girl was ill in a hospital with a rare blood disorder and was badly in need of a blood donor but a match could not be found. As a last resort, her six year old brother was checked as a match and much to everyone's relief, he was.

Both his mother and Doctor sat the little boy down and explained how they would like his blood to help his sister so she would not die. The little boy waited a few moments then asked if he could think about it. It wasn't the reaction the mother or Doctor expected but they agreed....

The following day the little boy sat in front of the Doctor with his mother and said he agreed to give his sister what she needed. The hospital staff moved quickly for his sister was fading quite fast. So the little boy could understand what was happening, he was placed in a bed next to his sister and so the transfusion began.

Quickly, the color and life began flooding back into the little girl and every one was overjoyed. The little boy turned to the Doctor and quietly asked, "How long will it be before I die?"

You see, the little boy thought that by giving his blood, he was giving his own life, which is why he took a little time to think about it.....

The whole month is a month of loving and being. Move through this month loving everyday and give of your love. If you would like to read more **Stories from the Heart**, you can find them at [http://www.viewonbuddhism.org/resources/heart\\_stories.html](http://www.viewonbuddhism.org/resources/heart_stories.html)

### **Religious Education Lessons**

The nursery will be open at 9:45 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 also have a pot of coffee for parents to enjoy and take the time to get to know each other.

**Lower, Upper and Junior** students have started their unit on Buddhism.

**Junior and Senior** students will continue their lessons in their OWL classes on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. at GPUC.

### **Dates to Remember**

February 4 - RE Committee Meeting at 9:15 a.m. Room 7 in RE wing

February 11 - Coney/Bingo event at 11:45 A.M

February - Senior Ski Trip-Dates TBA

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

**Lose Them Winter Blues!  
Join Us For...**

**BINGO**

**GPUC**

**Coney Lunch  
and Bingo!**

**Sunday, February 11, 2018**  
begins at 11:45 a.m. after church

**\$5.00 for Coney Lunch,  
\$1.00 for Bingo**

*Reservations Required  
Nursery will be open  
Prizes for the winners!*

**Sponsored by:**  
**Alliance,  
RE Program,  
Resale Shop**



*Bingo*

**Reservations are Required:** email - [julie@gpuc.us](mailto:julie@gpuc.us) or sign-up in the foyer  
The nursery is available for children ages 5 years and under

## Musical Notes

To the tune of *PEOPLE*, by Barbra Streisand  
(with major apologies to "Babs")

"People, people who need people are the luckiest SINGERS in our CHOIR.  
We'd be grateful for TENORS and BASSES to fill out these important ranks,  
the lowest voices of our vocal banks,  
sounding more like grown-ups not children.  
So, please consider, singing in our choir.  
Men and women are both welcome here,  
Our UU faith makes it quite clear  
That GPUC's more than just people,



but people who need SINGERS!"

Interested? Come to any Wednesday evening rehearsal in room 2 (the purple room) of the RE Wing, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact or see Joseph Palazzolo or Birdi Hansen-Marr.

Birdi Hansen-Marr, Music Committee Chair

## Announcements

### **Church Safety Committee Forming** [*Important - Please Read*]

The Board has created a subcommittee to look at the issue of church safety, particularly around traumatic events, given the unfortunate incidence of such events in recent years. We are looking for members of the congregation who would be interested in helping serve on this committee. Particularly helpful would be those with experience in the legal and psychiatric fields. However, any help is welcome. If you are interested, or know somebody who might work well on this committee, please contact Joe Buttiglieri, Lynn Rehahn, or Jud Cole.

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### **Women's Book Discussion Group**

The Women's Book Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month from October to April at 5:30pm in the Church Library. Refreshments are provided with a \$3 per person donation to cover costs. We gather in May for a pot-luck dinner and to choose books for the fall. *We welcome new participants!*

### **Wednesday, February 21, 5:30pm, GPUC Library**

***Hidden Figures*** by Margot Lee Shetterly

The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space—a powerful, revelatory contribution that is as essential to our understanding of race, discrimination, and achievement in modern America.

Led by Barbara Moran

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### **First Sunday Food Sharing - February 4**

Our next opportunity for Food Sharing will be **Sunday, February 4**. 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, and 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.

Our congregation has been so very generous. **During the 2017 calendar year, GPUC collected \$2,748 to purchase food, and took 9,289 pounds of food to Crossroads East!!!**

The staff and clients at Crossroads East are very thankful for our donations!

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### **UU Crafters**

UU Crafters will meet on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (February 20 and 27) 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.

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### **New 2018 Phone Directories**

The 2018 GPUC Phone Directories are here and ready for pick-up. They are available in the foyer on Sundays or in the church office during the week. *It is your responsibility to notify the office of any changes in your contact information.* If you do not see a directory with your name on it - please contact the church office. An electronic copy of the directory can be found on the church website ([gpuuc.org](http://gpuuc.org)) under the members only tab.

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### 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!*

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

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### From the GPUC Care Committee

Please consider writing a note of cheer to the following church members:

- Diane Abbott
- Doris Cook
- Shirley Reeves
- Bill Salot
- Ray Scott

You will find their addresses in the church directory or contact the church office.

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There is a small table just outside the sanctuary where you will be able to write a message of cheer to anyone in the congregation. There are note cards and paper, envelopes, pens, etc. A member of the Care Committee will be sure to see that your message is sent and received.

Thank you, Linda Lawrence and the Care Committee

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It saddens us to have had so many recent deaths in our church community.

- **Jackie Hoats Shields' mother**
- **Shawn Grose's father**
- **Sarah Neely's daughters, Miranda and Olivia Barba's father**

You may wish to send a card to them, letting them know that you are thinking of them at this most difficult time

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### Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by Friday, February 16th at noon. They should be sent to [newsletter@gpuc.us](mailto:newsletter@gpuc.us).

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