

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*

June 2018

Upcoming Services

June 3, 2018

10:30 AM

RE Sunday

Worship Leader: Julie Artis

Worship Associate: Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel

Join us for our end of the year recognition of all the wonderful people who work to make our children's religious education program the great success that it is. As a highlight (this year and every year) we have three Seniors speaking to us as they say their goodbyes to our program and launch themselves into the larger world. There are always poignant moments when these youth speak! We will be recognizing the new GPUC members and also conclude our service by dedicating the trees that a number of you purchased a while back so if you purchased a tree for dedication, try to make it to church on June 3rd! A reception with cake and ice cream will follow the tree dedication.

June 10, 2018

10:30 AM

Flower Communion

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

This is our annual Flower Communion service during which we recall the story of Dr. Capek. **Please bring a flower to contribute to our collection** and then take home another - a wonderful symbol of our beloved community. The sermon will be our annual "poetry slam" but as always, on the more pensive side. ***NOTE - Our annual church picnic follows the service.**

June 17, 2018

10:30 AM

A Potpourri of Fatherly Wisdom

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

This Father's Day we will hear some of the fathers in our GPUC congregation (including Dr. Riegel) talk about Fatherhood. Like what does Fatherhood look from their different perspectives and what advice would they give Fathers to be?

June 24, 2018

10:30 AM

Clear Lessons: Whose Story Is It?

Worship Leader: Maurya Kay

Worship Associate: Suzanne Ross

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"Every rose has its thorns."

It's been a trying time in the Riegel household as of late. Most of you are aware that my wife, Kimi, has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (this, on top of numerous other health challenges she perpetually faces.). Our pup Ophelia has been diagnosed with advanced cancer and will soon need to be put down. My son is three months away from departing for college (exciting news for him - difficult news for me, though I am told I will adjust). One of my best friends came within a hair's breadth of dying on our pilgrimage to India (aneurysm in an artery that runs off the aortic valve was leaking) - thank karma I was there to be his power of attorney in a remote Indian hospital! Another friend has gone through a breakdown and alienated his closest circle in audacious ways - me included, which makes it hard to help. So, I am reminded that "Every rose has its thorns!"

Indeed, 2018 has been a challenge so far to say the least and if I allow my attention to be captured by all of these challenges, I could easily find myself daily in the doldrums. (Remember, "Energy follows attention.") Many of you may be going through your own significant life challenges (or have, or will), hence the theme of this Meander. When life challenges capture our attention to the point where we cannot wrest our attention from those challenges, we can find ourselves in crisis. So it is important to be able to manage where one places one's attention. If we find our attention pulled to thorns, we must wrest our attention and place it on the soft, velvety, burgundy petals of the rose flower. Such a shift of attention can radically change the way we experience the rose, i.e., life.

Many of you do not know this about me but roses mean much more to me than mere poetic imagery. Prior to moving to Grosse Pointe I had a rose garden that I tended in my yard. Tending that garden was a regular reminder of the lesson I have just shared with you. In fact, I refuse to wear gloves while tending roses for this very reason - it helps keep the lesson vivid for me! When I get pricked by a thorn I shift my attention to the petals. In sum, I have learned to keep my awareness of the thorns and petals in balance and so have learned to approach the entire tending experience with heightened awareness (Hence, I experience the beauty of the rose bush more intensely)... and so life.

Namaste,

Alex

Religious Education News



We should not hesitate to help our children see that what they learn and feel here is Unitarianism, and that our effort in the direction of liberal religion is born of a deep commitment to life. Through worship and through learning and through relationships with others, it is the love of life we are doing our best to help along. Robert Doss

As our Religious Education year winds down, I want to express my deep appreciation for all the volunteers who made this year successful. It is through your commitment and caring that makes our Religious Education Program work. On June 3rd we will celebrate the Religious Education program. We invite all members to listen, sing, and celebrate the World Religion year as our students present a small part of what they learned this past year. We are dedicated to come together from different places and examine our own paths.

Our young people have attended the beginning of the regular worship service all year. This brings the whole congregation together for the chalice lighting, hymn and Time for All Ages. Our young people feel a part of the larger congregation. This participation with our youth helps to strengthen their identity as Unitarian Universalists. We also shared in Children's Chapel in the RE wing this year. Your DRE lead the children in child centered, developmentally appropriate worship during three Sundays this past year. Multi-Generational Worship services occur at holidays and other special times to include our students with the whole congregation. Our GPUC community welcomed all the children into the human community, in the spirit of human oneness,

and into the fellowship of life.

We encourage you to share RE Sunday, June 3rd with us. June 3 we will share our belief of each individual and the power of community. See you June 3rd. There will be cake and ice cream for everyone!

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think. Margaret Mead

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 also have a pot of coffee for parents to enjoy and get to know each other.

Dates to Remember

June 3-RE Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Senior High Picnic at 4:00 p.m.

June 10-Flower Sunday and church picnic-bring a dish to pass

June 17-Father's Day-nursery open

June 24-RE picnic in Neff Park at noon-Sign up in Lobby

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



GPUC Religious Education

Picnic and Swim Party

Sunday, June 24, 2018

12:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m.

Neff Park

17150 E. Jefferson

Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230

Please join your Religious Education friends at Neff Park for a picnic and swimming. You must sign up in advance with Julie Artis for your name to be at the park gate to allow you and your family entrance to the park. Bring a lunch, bathing suit, chairs, friends and a fun smile! There are picnic tables, charcoal grills and a very nice bathhouse for changing and showers. UU cake will be provided!

RSVP to Julie Artis julieartis@hotmail.com

List Name of Family and how many adults and children below

Vision Update

40-50 people attended the Programming meeting on April 15. Breakout groups came up with many ideas for new and expanded programming at GPUC. A comprehensive list will be provided to the congregation in the near future. At the meeting we introduced Architect John Hill, who is helping us to determine what physical improvements we want to make to our buildings. John was in the GPUC RE program as a child and has a great affinity for the design of the church. He and structural engineer Joseph LaVere will advise us as to what types of addition and expansion are feasible. John is gathering data about how we use our space now and how we might use it in the future. In the next few weeks we will be asking the congregation to complete an online survey of your opinions about the church facilities. Your input is vital to this process. Please participate!

Chris Vadino & Rudy Wedenoja
Vision-Facilities Committee Co-Chairs

GPUC Safety Committee

There was a time when church security was unheard of as a topic of discussion. Churches were places where the door was always open and visitors welcome. Unfortunately, over the last 20 years all that has changed.

Recently, the Board decided to establish a safety committee to create policies and procedures that will address

the safety and security of our congregation.

Members of this committee include:

Lynn Rehahn, Chair
Rev. Alex Riegel
Jud Cole
Sonja Franchett
Bill Rehahn
Karen Valliere

In addition, the committee is coordinating and addressing specific issues within the RE wing with RE Director, Julie Artis.

The committee has been investigating what best practices can be instituted and enabled to provide a safe environment for our beloved community.

Members with questions, concerns or issues they would like the committee to follow up on are encouraged to speak to any of the safety committee members.

We look forward to providing you with updates and addressing your concerns.

Thank you,
The GPUC Safety Committee

Announcements

Campership 2018 - We Have Exciting News!

The Spirit of Alexandria Foundation is matching our funding! We will be able to send **20** of the most improved 6th graders at Detroit Merit Academy to the Howell Nature Center camp!

The new camp session, "Naturalist in Training" has been chosen for the campers.

GPUC members & friends have shown great heart in the past for supporting students who have worked hard to improve their achievements during a very important time in their schooling.

Donations of any size are gratefully accepted at any time; please make check out to GPUC with "Camp" in the memo line. Contact Susie Boynton or Candy Dunn for further information.

Think Scrip This Spring!

Spring is in the air, and as Father's Day, and graduations quickly approach, please consider using GPUC's scrip program to purchase any gift cards you may be planning to give!

In case you're not yet familiar with it, scrip is a terrific fundraising program that allows you to purchase gift cards from companies who return anywhere from 2 to 16% of the amount you spend back to GPUC. Hundreds of familiar retailers participate in the scrip program. How do these stores help us raise money? It's simple - scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift cards to GPUC at a discount. GPUC families and friends buy the cards for full face value, they redeem them for full face value, and GPUC RE keeps the difference as revenue.

In addition to gifts, you can put your regular household shopping dollars to work by shopping with scrip gift cards at stores that participate in the program. Cards can be used for many purchases including dining out, clothing, entertainment and gasoline. You can support GPUC's RE students all year!

Order forms are available in the GPUC foyer and office. They can also be downloaded from the GPUC website, or emailed to you by contacting Candy Dunn in the church office. You may drop your order in the church office at any time. Orders are placed every two weeks or so, and cards are distributed upon their arrival. Please make checks payable to GPUC, with "scrip" in the memo line.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Semanision, the Scrip Coordinator. Thank you in advance for your support of the GPUC RE Program!

Thanks!

First Sunday Food Sharing - Sunday, June 3

Our next opportunity for Food Sharing will be **Sunday, June 3**.

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. **So far this calendar year, GPUC has donated \$759** towards the purchase of these items. This is actually a very helpful option, as not many organizations bring these types of foods. **The staff and clients at Crossroads East are very thankful for our donations!**

Annual Picnic - Fellowship Committee

It's that time of year again! Please mark your calendars for our annual **GPUC Picnic on Sunday, June 10th**. Hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to add to potluck. We'll have lemonade for your drinking pleasure or you can BYOB if you so desire. You may also bring a blanket or chair to sit upon. Looking forward to a great time.

Jill Crane for Fellowship

GPUC History

Over the past several years church historian Janet Weber has been posting a short explanation of each of the nineteen symbols on our iconic screen, one a month in the glass showcase. She received a number of requests to have that information available to church members. That information has been gathered in pamphlet form and includes a map of the screen and information about the artist, John (Jay) Carson who was a church member at the time this church building was dedicated. The pamphlet was distributed at the annual meeting May 20th and will be available to all on or near the pamphlet rack in the lobby.

Janet Weber

Year End Pledge Payment Summaries

The pledge payment summaries for the current fiscal year will be emailed or mailed to all pledging members and friends the first week in June. The fiscal year will end on June 30; if your pledge is not yet complete we ask that you please send us payment by June 29th. Your support of the church makes it possible to continue our active program and maintain our beautiful facility. The new fiscal year will begin on July 1, 2018.

Notice from the Treasurer

The 2017-18 church year comes to a close on Saturday, June 30. The last date checks will be printed in this fiscal year is Thursday, June 28. Any receipts that pertain to the current church year must be submitted to the church office no later than Wednesday, June 27, 2018. Please contact Sabrina Biernat or Candy Dunn in the office if you have questions. Thank you.

- Sabrina Biernat, Treasurer

Notes from the Office

Summer Office Hours: The office will be open 9am - 3pm, Thursdays & Fridays beginning June 25th through August 19th. Regular office hours resume Monday, August 20. Voicemail is available 24/7.

Lost and Found: Please check the "Lost and Found" box and the many coats left in the cloak room for items you may have left at the church. Unclaimed items will go to the Resale Shop on June 20.

Refrigerator Clean Out: The refrigerator in the coffee kitchen needs to be emptied of all food for the summer. Please remove any food items left in the fridge, freezer, custodian's room and cupboards. All food items remaining will be disposed of the end of June.

Pledge Reminder: The new Fiscal Year begins on July 1, 2018. Please remember to write 2017-18 pledge or 2018-19 pledge on the memo line of your check to receive credit in the intended pledge year.

Alliance Annual Luncheon

The Alliance Annual potluck luncheon will be held **Tuesday June 12** at noon in the Annex. This is a thank you lunch for all the people who work in our Resale Shop every Wednesday and on Thursday in the evening. Many of our volunteers are non-church members and play an important role in seeing that the Shop runs smoothly and efficiently. The Resale Shop is an asset not only to our church but to the community. Because of volunteers the Shop has been able to maintain a monthly pledge to the church. This year we are going to add something different to this event. After lunch we will play Bingo with and there will be cash prizes. Please come and join in the fun, fellowship and good food. Call Joan Hines with your food donation.

Women's Book Discussion Group

The women met last week to choose our books for the coming year. A list will be published soon and will be on our website. Printed lists will also be available in the church foyer. We will be meeting in the summer at a member's home where we will be dividing the cost of the food and drinks between the attendees.

The first summer meeting will be at the home of Anne Roberts on June 26 at 6:00 pm.

Our book will be, "Chinese Lessons", about an American mother teaching her children to be Chinese in China by Patti Waldmeir, daughter of Pete Waldmeir.

Regular monthly meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm in the church library. Our first fall meeting will be on October 17th. If you are not on our regular book club email list, please contact Jill Crane at villajilla@sbcobal.net and she will be happy to add your name. We Welcome New Members!

UU Crafters

UU Crafters will be "on summer vacation" the months of June, July or August. See you in September when meetings will resume. I hope everyone has a delightful summer!

Ann Helm

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by Friday, August 24 at noon. They should be sent to **THE NEW NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESS:** newslettergpuc@gmail.com

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