

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 2018

Upcoming Services

September 2, 2018 **10:30AM**

The Decline of Truth in Public Discourse

Worship Leader: Chuck Palmer

Worship Associate: N/A

We seem to be living in an age where there is very little agreement about basic facts and a blurring of facts and opinions in public debates. Chuck will explore the problem as he sees it and offer suggestions of how our society can address it.

September 9, 2018 **10:30 AM**

These Are the Days
[Intergenerational Service]

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel and Julie Artis

Worship Associate: N/A

This is an intergenerational service in which we seek to remind ourselves what an amazing adventure life is and from that recollection, recommit to making our own lives **and** our Unitarian Universalist religion, by extension, the vital and meaningful force it can be in the world.

September 16, 2018 **10:30 AM**

Common Ground:

Lessons from Howard Thurman's Theology of Social Justice

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel

Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

Howard Thurman was a Baptist minister and civil rights leader whose theology of social justice had a significant influence on many civil rights leaders of the day. Though the context of his social justice advocacy was quite different from ours today, there is much we can learn from him nevertheless. This Sunday Dr. Riegel will introduce us to Thurman's theology of social justice and suggest how it can inform our own Unitarian Universalist social justice efforts today.

September 23, 2018 **10:30 AM**

Precious: Live Life Like It Is

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel

Worship Associate: Suzanne Ross

Life places many demands upon us - from the workplace to our families - so much so that we spend most of our time in the preoccupation that meeting these demands requires. This can lead to a life that loses touch with life but life doesn't

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have to be this way. Life is precious and it would behoove us always to remember the preciousness of life *and to act accordingly*. With this in mind, Dr. Riegel will reflect upon the preciousness of life and invite all of us, individually, to commit ourselves to approach life accordingly.

[Wed Oct 17 Wms Book Discussion](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

September 30, 2018

10:30 AM

In the beginning was - the ear?!

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel

Worship Associate: Anne Roberts

"In the beginning was the Word," or so the Gospel of John tells us. And, we could add, people haven't stopped talking since! Indeed, in today's world it seems that verbosity is all the rage, from talk show host pundits (I include the news media in this) to self-made social media gurus (spend a day on Twitter!). Given all the verbal cacophony to which we are exposed these days perhaps it is time to ask, whatever happened to listening? (This sermon is in response to a sermon request by a GPUC member. If you have a topic on which you would like to hear Dr. Riegel speak, please feel free to send him an email in that regard. No guarantees but input is always welcome...)

Alexander's Meander



It is a time of transitions... especially in the Riegel household. This gives credence to the Buddha's insight that life is change/impermanence (and suffering, if one insists on clinging to the past, but that is not what this Meander is about). But with change comes new circumstances and new opportunities. I am trying to remember that wisdom in the context of my own life and in remembering it, carry it into my ministry at GPUC.

As we return to GPUC from our far flung summer endeavors we return to our familiar, beloved community but we also return to a beloved community that is constantly changing. This is a good thing because if we ain't changin', we ain't growin'! Still, change can be hard for people and it can be especially hard for churches. (We like the place just as we found it. That's why we joined!)

At this point in the life of our church this theme is especially poignant. Indeed, we are at a point that demands, for reasons too numerous to elaborate here, a LOT of change: change in governance structure, change in the way we do our shared ministry, and potential (and much needed) change in our facilities. (More information on these and other matters will become clearer as autumn progresses, both from me and the Board). Change is more necessary for us now than at any time in my ministry at GPUC (We are starting our fifth year together, by the way!)

As your minister I am watching to see how we will respond to this change. In my mind how we respond will shape the future of GPUC. In other words, I see this as a formative year for us, holding out great potential. With that in mind I want to encourage you enter this church year embracing change. We are facing new circumstances and new opportunities await us!

Namaste
Alex

Religious Education News



Welcome to the 2018-19 Religious Education Program! We are excited about another year filled with new friends, opportunities to explore our world together, and relationships that nurture the hearts, minds and souls of our students and parents.

It is our goal each year to create a community of many ages that nurtures compassion and integrity, while inspiring spiritual exploration and service for the greater good. 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 2018-19 year we will be in our first year of the pillar system with a focus on **Unitarian Universalism**. Our classes and activities create an environment in which our students can think critically, recognize their own inherent worth and that of others and discuss and discover their own beliefs, values and ideals.

Our program is a cooperative system and requires the work of many hands and hearts to thrive each week. Please take the time to look through the opportunities for volunteer service which are available and decide how you would like to be involved. Your involvement will not only support the health of our program, but it will also help you to find and build a church community and help you feel at home in our wonderful church.



[OWL](http://www.uua.org/owl)

This year we will introduce our **OWL (Our Whole Lives)** classes for K-1 and Grades 4-6. There will be a required parent meeting in September. OWL is a positive, comprehensive, and age-appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health and is informed by the guidelines of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). The curriculum is based on four primary goals: to provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information; to increase self-esteem and understand relationships with and responsibilities toward others; to develop interpersonal skills including communication, decision making, and problem solving; and to teach responsibility for personal health and safety. If you would like more information now, go to www.uua.org/owl The classes will take place at 9:30 a.m. before our regular UU classes. All students will need parental approval.

Religious Education Lessons

September 9th will be our first Sunday back with an All Family Service. Please remember to bring your registration forms. On the following **Sunday, September 16th**, all students will start their Sunday experience in their classrooms. The nursery will be open every Sunday including **Labor Day Sunday**,

September 2nd. Our caring sitters will be there to greet our young UU's.

Registration forms have been mailed out to all past members. Please send in your registration forms ASAP. If you are new and would like to register your child, please contact me by phone or email at Julie@gpuc.us. Teaching assignments will be sent out during the second week in September. I look forward to greeting you every Sunday!!
In peace and joy,

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

GPUC President's Message

While we have Sunday services all through the year, many of us are gone for part of the summer and for religious education purposes we start our new year as our children return to school. This is also true for the Board of Trustees. We did not meet in July and in August we had a combined one day retreat/ meeting. This daylong session allowed us time to discuss the upcoming year in depth and to plan our goals for the next year. So, for all who have taken some time off this summer: Welcome Home!

All members are always welcome to attend our regular meetings which are the second Tuesday of each month from September through June at 7 p.m. at the church. The current Board of Trustees is made up of the following members:

President: Joseph Buttiglieri
Vice President: Russell Chavey
Secretary: Paul Rowady
Treasurer: Sabrina Biernat
Trustee: Christine Whitwell
Trustee: Lynn Rehahn
Trustee: John Engstrom
Trustee: Shawn Grose
Religious Education Chair: Karen Webb (Voting member of Board)

Contact information for all board members is readily available in the church directory. Church members are encouraged to contact board members with concerns, questions or about any issue you want the board to be aware of.

The Board has been busy discussing and anticipating options from the Vision committee as to possible improvements, additions, and renovations to our church. Last year the Board approved retaining an architect and he has not only visited with the members of the vision committee, but with members of the congregation in order to assist us in determining our needs, dreams and what is possible. We anticipate a presentation to the congregation as soon as October followed by a decision from the congregation as to how to proceed. Will we renovate, expand or add a new building to replace the annex? These are exciting and challenging times for our congregation.

The Board spent a great deal of time also discussing how we can do a better job at growing our membership and retaining the people that do join. As our congregation ages, we need to build on new members that will provide both financial support and leadership in the future. This is an ongoing job, not just for the Board of Trustees and the Membership Committee, but for the whole congregation. When you see new members, please introduce yourself, ask their names and let them know they are welcome. Your newest best friend may be the next newcomer through our doors.

The Board is always monitoring and planning for the financial health of our community. We need generous pledges from each membership unit to pay our bills. We also depend on other sources of income, such as the Resale Shop, fund raisers and rental income. We need to increase our pledges so we are not dependent on rental income that may change drastically from year to year. Among other things, the Board is considering an earlier start to our pledge efforts so that the annual Fellowship Dinner is truly a celebration of our financial security, rather than a plea for money.

We are blessed with a great Religious Education program but also have many other programs and ways for

each member to truly live as Unitarian Universalists. Adult Religious Enrichment includes programs on UU History, Spirituality and Philosophy. Committees are always looking for new members to help with Social Justice, Maintaining our Grounds, helping to grow Membership, work on Developing Leadership, working in our Resale Shop (Which makes a substantial contribution to our budget on an annual basis) and special fundraisers (such as our bi-annual auction and other activities).

The Board is also responsible for assisting our Minister in managing the church staff. Dr. Riegel is the supervisor of the R E Director, Music Director, Church Administrator and Custodian. Board officers meet regularly with Dr. Riegel regarding the staff and day to day operations of the church.

Please communicate with Board members and let us know your concerns, interests and aspirations for our church home. If you have something you want the Board to address at a meeting, please contact me or any other officer. Once again: Welcome Home!

Joseph Buttiglieri
President of GPUC

GPUC Safety Committee

GPUC Safety Committee

Over the summer, the committee met with local security companies and with our representative from Church Mutual Insurance, gathering information, receiving quotes and working on how to move forward with securing our facilities and providing a safe environment for our community.

The committee is meeting again soon to draft recommendations on updating, introducing and instituting best practices that will secure our facilities and the security of the congregation.

The Church Mutual representative also recommended a few articles from their *Risk Reporter* newsletter and online webinars that members might find of interest:

[Church Mutual Insurance Risk Reporter Archive](#)

[Church Mutual Insurance Risk Control Webinars](#)

From the UUA:

[Unitarian Universalist Association - Building and Safety in Churches](#)

And from ALICE Training:

[ALICE Training Featured Videos](#)

ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. A few of our committee members have participated in the training. Church Mutual and some local public safety departments recommend it. The Committee will continue to explore this training.

These links are provided as an FYI to our community.

As always, 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.

Members of this committee include:

Lynn Rehahn

Carol Ghesquiere

Dr. Alex Riegel

Shawn Grose

Jud Cole

Bill Rehahn

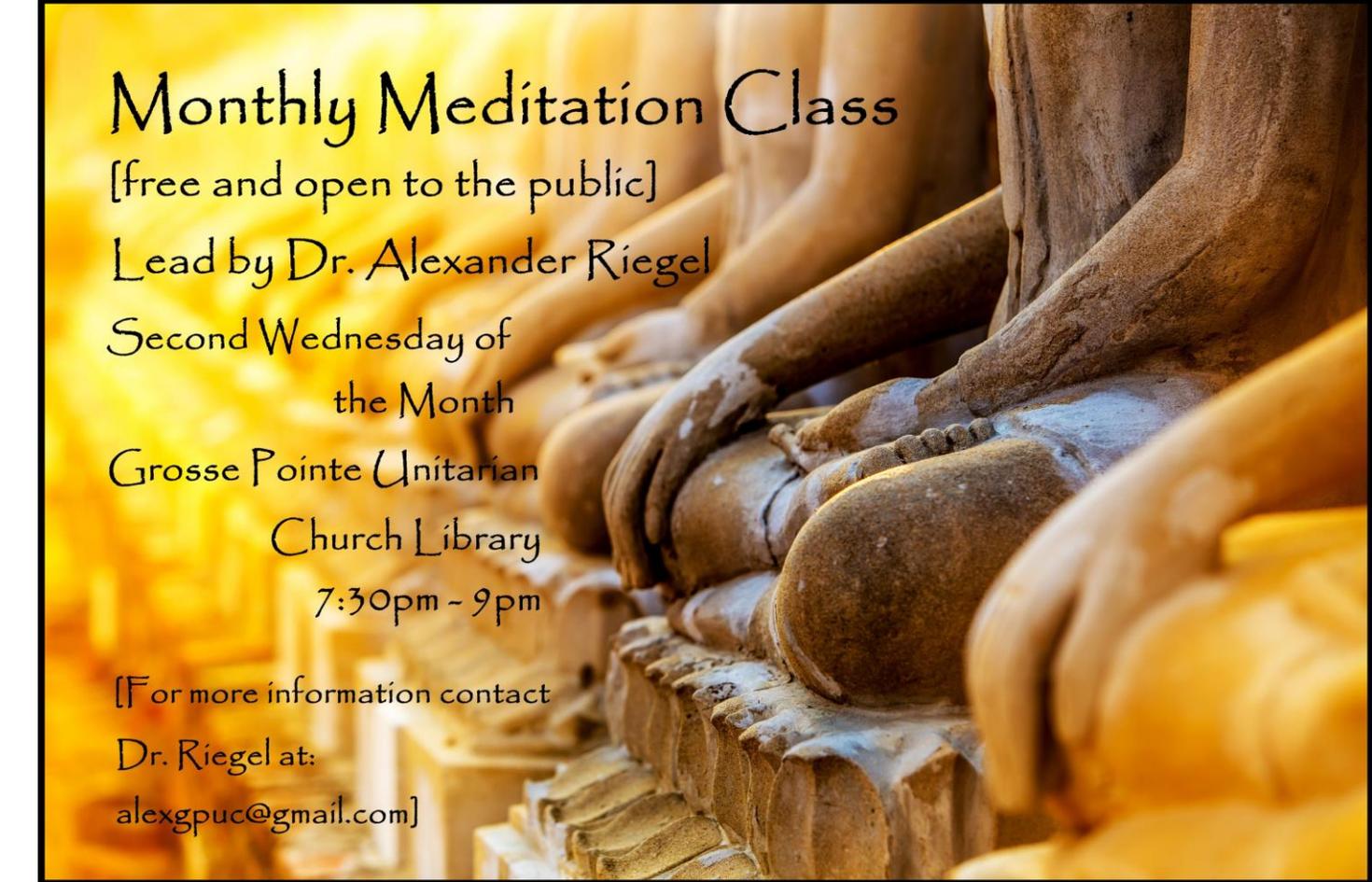
Sonja Franchett

Karen Valliere

The committee continues to coordinate and address specific issues within the RE wing with RE Director, Julie Artis.

Thank you,
The GPUC Safety Committee

Meditation Class



Monthly Meditation Class

[free and open to the public]

Lead by Dr. Alexander Riegel

Second Wednesday of
the Month

Grosse Pointe Unitarian
Church Library

7:30pm - 9pm

[For more information contact

Dr. Riegel at:

alexgpuc@gmail.com]

Announcements

The GPUC Resale Shop SUMMER SALE was a success!

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers:

Ann P., Carole H., Judith, Carolyn, Malo, Geri, Mary Kay, Karin, Chris, Debbie, Shay, Bill, Lynn, Renee, JoAnn, Ann R., Najla, Shayla for helping with set-up and pricing.

Our thanks to Carole H. and Debbie for their artistic ability on signs and Renee for the balloons!

A HUGE Thank You to Malo and HYDRANGEA KITCHEN for donating lunch for all the volunteers. Yummy!

We are grateful to all the guys who pitched in setting up tents, carrying tables, loading customer purchases- Leo, Bill, John B., Sam, John E., Ken, Jerry.

Our cheerful cashiers were Carole H., Ann P., Connie, Tom, Lynn, Mollie, Marlane, Debbie, Kathy M., and Jenny. Lynn was an outstanding wrapper!

Thank you to all of you who cleaned house and brought us items to sell!

A SPECIAL thanks to Willie and Jay, who always step up and help us implement any wild ideas we come up with...always with a smile!

Make a Difference with Tutoring!

We have members and friends of GPUC making a difference for children in three different Detroit schools: Detroit Merit Academy, Clark and Bunche. Tutoring is great for the kids and a great reward for the tutors, too. More tutors are needed to help with reading, math or homework. It's your choice of school, day, and time for an hour or so a week. Even some tutors who are snowbirds tutor when they are in town.

This year, the principal at Detroit Merit is constructing a quiet space for tutors to use with students. Teachers, staff and students appreciate any time that tutors have to give. To sign up or for further information, contact

Susie Boynton or Candy Dunn in the office.

Music News

ADULT CHOIR first rehearsal of the year is Wednesday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m. Come and join us!
YOUTH CHOIR first rehearsal of the year is Sunday, September 16 at 11:45am after the first RE class-boys and girls K through 6-come and sing with us!

Joseph Palazzolo and Anne Roberts will perform an exciting DUELING PIANOS concert on Saturday, October 27, at 4 p.m. featuring "An American in Paris" by George Gershwin. Tickets are \$20 presale, and \$25 at the door. Ticket sales will begin on Sunday, September 16, after church. Tickets will also be available at the church office during business hours by cash or check.

Questions please contact Joseph Palazzolo, Music Director or the GPUC office.

Our next Food Sharing will be SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

With each new month comes a new opportunity to contribute to the food pantry at Crossroads East! Please consider bringing canned, boxed or bagged foods to church with you on that day. Cereals, soups, prepared meals, peanut butter, pasta... any non-perishable foods you would like to donate will be gladly received. Also accepted are toiletry items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, and deodorant. Your contributions are taken to Crossroads East, located in Salem Lutheran Church on Moross.

Monetary donations are also very gladly accepted. If you are not able to get out to shop, no problem! If you do not like shopping, no problem! If shopping has slipped your mind, no problem! Milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and bread are purchased with the money that you donate. They are delivered to Crossroads East on a (most) weekly basis, and are very much appreciated by the staff and clients.

Event and Committee meeting space at GPUC

If there is to be an event at the church, including committee meetings, the meeting space should be reserved through the church office otherwise there is no guarantee that there will be space available.

Sunday Morning Flowers

We welcome donations for fresh flowers in the Sanctuary on Sundays mornings. Take a moment to recognize or honor someone dear or to commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. Flowers add significantly to the ambience of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Please use the yellow insert in the Sunday order of service or contact the church office and sign-up for a Sunday or two.

Let us know if you will bring your own arrangement or provide a check or cash (minimum cost \$25) 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.

Kroger Fundraiser

GPUC members have been participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program since 2009. This program returns money to our church based on a percentage of the purchases made by our members. About \$1000.00 has been earned annually by GPUC but in the last two years the amount has declined drastically. This past fiscal year we only received \$561. If you have not signed up to participate, please consider doing so as every little bit helps. Once enrolled all you have to do is shop at Kroger. If you are not sure you have signed up, look at the bottom of your cash register receipt. It will say "At your request, Kroger is donating to GPUC."

To participate: Sign up at a Kroger store for the Kroger Plus Shopper's Card.

Go the krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the prompts remembering to check the church name. You will need to use this **new code: FF794**. Our office administrator, Candy Dunn is glad to help, call her if you encounter trouble or can't access the internet.

Alliance Event

The Alliance is pleased to present an evening with Suzanne Ross on Tuesday, October 2nd at 7pm in the Annex. Suzanne went to India not once but twice. Her journey to Shantivanam, an ashram in Southern India began with the words of Sufi poet Hafez "This sky where we live is no place to lose your wings, so love, love, love." Suzanne will tell her stories, why she went, what she found and didn't find, and most of all what she brought back. Wine and cheese refreshments will be served. RSVP to the GPUC office, call or email Mary Morshead.

UU Crafters

UU Crafters will resume our meetings in September after our summer break. We plan on meeting in September and October on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Annex 7-9pm. In September, we will meet Tuesday, September 18 and 25. We will take a Holiday Break in November and December and resume again in January. All are welcome to join in for an evening of social stitching (knit, crochet, quilting, needlepoint, etc.) and other small crafts. Also, if you like to color and haven't tried the new adult coloring books there are books and markers for anyone who would like to give it a try. Check the church calendar on the website and the weekly email for any changes. Please contact Ann Helm with any questions.

Women's Book Discussion Group

The Women usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the church library. We serve refreshments and divide the cost between the attendees. Our first meeting of the church year begins in October. Please check in the foyer for a list of books for the coming church year.

All are welcome to attend!

Wednesday, October 17, 5:30 p.m. Church library

Bonfire of the Vanities by Tom Wolfe

A satirical novel about ambition, racism, social class, politics and greed in 1980s New York City, and centers on three main characters: WASP and bond trader Sherman McCoy, Jewish assistant district attorney, Larry Kramer, and British expatriate journalist, Peter Fallow

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by **Friday, September 21 at noon.**

They should be sent to **THE NEW NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESS:** newslettergpuc@gmail.com

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