

*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 2019

### Upcoming Services

**September 8, 2019**  
**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *Come, Come, Whoever You Are*  
**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel and D.R.E. Julie Artis  
**Worship Associate:** Chuck Palmer

This intergenerational service is our first official Sunday following the summer break. In this service we will touch upon some of the themes that define us as Unitarian Universalists, both as a homecoming and reminder of beloved community and how we are called to witness to our liberal religious principles in the world at large.

**September 15, 2019**  
**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *The Logic of Love*  
**Worship Leader:** Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel  
**Worship Associate:** Anne Roberts

There isn't much debating that we are living in divisive times. But, there is great debate about how to live in these divisive times. In this sermon Dr. Riegel will remind us that it is in times such as these that we most need to live according to our UU principles, even though in times such as these it might be hardest to live according to our UU principles.

**September 22, 2019**  
**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *Know Thy Avatar*  
**Worship Leader:** Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel  
**Worship Associate:** Tonya Wells

Taking off from a witty phrase overheard from our own GPUC member Sam Smith (thank you, Sam!), Dr. Riegel will discuss the impact social media has on us as individuals and suggest that despite all the promising benefits that are promised to accrue with the rise of A.I. (artificial intelligence), it might behoove us to pull the plug - at least on our own avatars.

**September 29, 2019**  
**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *Adab: On the Sufi Practice of Courtesy*  
**Worship Leader:** Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel  
**Worship Associate:** Maurya Kay

In the Sufi tradition there is a spiritual practice known as "adab," which basically means "courtesy." Dr. Riegel will explain adab to us and suggest that such a behavioral prescription(s) (and others like it), though often overlooked, is an invaluable practice on the spiritual journey.

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### Upcoming Events

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### Forward To A Friend



It's been a loooong and restful summer! And, like the meerkats in the above photo, I am eager to reconnect with my GPUC peeps! Already there are a number of things planned for this fall, of which I want to highlight two.

First, Linda Lawrence and I will be conducting a three part course entitled, *The Other Side*. In this course we will cover the phenomenon of near-death experience, afterlife communication, and reincarnation. Exact dates to be announced, with one class each in October, November, and December.

Second, since my arrival at GPUC I have been increasingly focusing on the social justice theme of antiracism. Most of you were here when I brought in Cornell West to speak at the War Memorial. And, I continue to sit on the Executive Committee of the local chapter of the NAACP. This coming year I would like to see our *entire congregation* more intentionally engage the theme of antiracism. Toward that end, our Social Justice committee, Adult Ed committee, and myself have planned a consciousness-raising format that we hope a large number of our congregation will engage throughout the year. Three times this year we will present different themes within the theme of antiracism. Each time we do this we will recommend a book, show a relevant film, then a lecture on by Dr. John Artis. Our first theme is housing discrepancy and **our first book recommendation is, "The Color of Law," by Richard Rothstein** (per Amazon: "Widely heralded as a "masterful" (Washington Post) and "essential" (Slate) history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law* offers "the most forceful argument ever published on how federal, state, and local governments gave rise to and reinforced neighborhood segregation"). Dr. Artis will present a lecture on this theme at noon on Sunday, Sept. 29th (**Please mark your calendars!**). In addition, we will also be showing the film, "**13th**", on Friday evening, Sept. 20th (**Again, please mark your calendars!**). The two themes that will follow throughout the year will be education, and, cultural discrepancies by race...

Namaste,

Alex

## Religious Education News



### **168 Hours in a week! Can you spare 1-2 for GPUC Religious Education?**

On Sunday, **September 8, 2019**, we will be welcoming our students and parents back for our first all church service. I would like to share some thoughts with you about the book **168 Hours** by Laura Vanderkam. We have 168 hours in one week and where do you spend it and will one to two of those hours be at GPUC? Yes, we are starved for time for work, school, driving, cooking, shopping and cleaning. But when I think of our children's spiritual growth I think of GPUC Religious Education on Sunday mornings and the 1 to 2 hours a week is very important.

I heard our children state that church school is for where we light the chalice. Church is making friends, field trips, a place to do things and makes me feel special. Our church is beautiful, we get a treat, where we share our joys and concerns, collect food and money and where we go to learn about the UU ways and other religions. I also heard a child say, "We can't sleep in on Sunday mornings, but I think it is worthwhile!"

I hope you consider spending 1-2 hours of your 168 hours a week at GPUC. This year our hours of studying will be **Abrahamic Faiths**. Our classes will be studying Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Our **Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary** and **Juniors** will start in the church on September 15 and September 29 for the first 15 minutes.

Our **Juniors** this year will be meeting in the RE wing. Our **Seniors** are asked to attend church on September 8 with their families. Erica Phardel will be meeting with the seniors to discuss their first semester schedule.

### **Religious Education Registration**

Our program is a cooperative system and requires the work of many hands and hearts to thrive each week.

Please remember to bring or mail in your registration forms and fee. Take 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 and vibrant church.

### **Nursery and Preschool**

Our Preschool and nursery is always open at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We have caring and skilled sitters to greet you and your children every Sunday. Registration is required for the nursery and preschool. I am available to answer questions by phone, email or in my office during the week.

**We are the church of the open mind, loving heart and helping hands!**

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

### **Give a Kid a Chance to Read and Add**

The Schools Tutoring Committee needs a few more tutors for the teachers who have requested help for their students at the nearby Detroit Merit Academy on Alter and Jefferson. Most tutors volunteer once a week for an hour and a half in reading or in math at a day and time that is worked out between the tutor and the teacher. The children benefit from the extra attention and practice, and the tutor receives the reward of knowing that he or she has made a difference for another human being.

Margaret Hudson Collins has met with the same girls for two years to help them with class assignments and also enrich their knowledge of African American authors and cultural issues. Ruth Orintas usually tutors all the children in her assigned class and gives them mandarin oranges when they show their best efforts. The class rewarded her with a song of thanks at the end of the year.

Mary Zahler is a snowbird but faithfully appears every Fall and Spring to teach math to sixth graders. She attends the classroom lesson before tutoring to make sure she and the teacher are taking the same approach to the problems. Emily Kraft works with first graders one at a time to give them the full attention new readers need. Some tutors request grade levels to work with and others fill in as needed, but all of us, both members and friends, feel welcomed and appreciated. Colin Gillis is tutoring first grade at Bunche School and is interested in starting a golf program, while Julie Panizzi is located at Clark School's second grade. For further information, please contact Susie Boynton or Candy Dunn in the office.

### **Pilgrimage To Peace**

**How can peace in the Holy Land be made possible?**

**How can religious leaders help?**

**How can we move forward to find common ground in otherwise polarizing discussions?**



**PILGRIMAGE  
TO PEACE**

Join **Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon**, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), as she hosts a conversation with **Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth** from Israel and **Aziz Abu Sarah**, a Palestinian-American, about multifaith dialogue and engagement in constructive conflict, peace and the reality of life in Israel and Palestine.

**Wednesday  
September 18  
7 - 9 pm**

**Hope Lutheran Church  
39200 W 12 Mile Road  
Farmington Hills  
Click [here](#) for map**

**Thursday  
September 19  
7 - 9 pm**

**The War Memorial  
32 Lake Shore Drive  
Grosse Pointe Farms  
Click [here](#) for map**

For more information visit <https://semisynod.weebly.com/>

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**DUELING PIANOS III Saturday Oct. 19**

Once again Anne Roberts and Joseph Palazzolo present an entertaining two-piano concert entitled "*Double Your Pleasure.*"

You'll hear a sonata by Mozart which sounds like a symphony, some Rachmaninoff, some Leroy Anderson, *Tea for Two*, and back by popular demand: the jazzy *Suite for Two Pianos* by Richard Rodney Bennett.

**Saturday, Oct. 19 at 4:00 p.m. in GPUC's Sanctuary.**  
**\$20 Presale \$25 At the Door**

Tickets go on sale after Labor Day. You'll also be able to buy them online...Stay tuned!

Announcements

**Resale Shop Update**

We are saddened at the passing of our dear friend, Ann Purrenhage. Ann volunteered her time (and heart) to the Resale Shop for the last 20+ years. Ann taught us the value of a smile, shared her wisdom and delighted us with her talents. It will be hard to fill her seat. We miss her.

New signs, new paint, a beautiful new entrance to The GPUC Resale Shop! A big hug to Jill Crane for donating the antique bench outside our annex door. A big thank you to John Roberts, whose woodworking talents restored it to its original usefulness. We are grateful to Willie and Jay for making sure our new addition remains in place!



**Fellowship Committee News**

The Fellowship Committee will meet Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> after service in Room 7 in the RE wing. We will plan social events for the new church year. Anyone interested in participating on the committee will be very welcome. Any questions please contact Juli Moore ([jdmoore1415@gmail.com](mailto:jdmoore1415@gmail.com)).

**Book Discussion Group News**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> (no meeting in September) in the church library at 5:30 pm. Juli Moore will lead the discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's novel "Unsheltered". Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome! Please let me know if you are able to attend. Thank you.

Juli Moore ([jdmoore1415@gmail.com](mailto:jdmoore1415@gmail.com))

**Sunday September 8 Is Our Next Food Sharing Opportunity**

On the second Sunday of each month, **food pantry and bathroom staples** are collected at GPUC. The donations are delivered to Crossroads East, a local social services agency located inside Love Rising Lutheran Church on Moross in Detroit. If you prefer to donate monetarily, your donations are used to purchase perishables such as milk, eggs, bread, potatoes, and fruit. These perishable items are purchased and delivered several times a month to help keep the fridge stocked.

Our donations are always gratefully received! Thank you for continuing to help folks in our community who could use a hand!

**Newsletter Deadline**

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by **Friday, September 20 at noon**. Submit items to the newsletter email address: [newslettergpuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettergpuc@gmail.com)

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