

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

A Welcoming Congregation 



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 2015

Upcoming Services

September 6, 2015

10:30 AM

"Racial Segregation: Why It Still Matters."

Chuck Palmer

Cynthia Luce, Worship Associate

Chuck will speak to us about the continuing pattern of racial segregation in the Detroit area, and how institutional racism reproduces the cycle of poverty and lack of opportunity for African-Americans.

September 13, 2015

10:30 AM

"Com-UU-nyt"

Dr. Alexander Riegel
Julie Artis, D.R.E

Meghan Boomhower, Worship Associate

This is our official unofficial start to the church year. Join us for an intergenerational service (all ages for the entire service) as we welcome everyone back to church for the Fall season! Our theme for the morning will be community, as we explore and celebrate the nature of religious community.

September 20, 2015

10:30 AM

"When Love Comes to Town: A Guidebook for Radical Inclusivity"

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Anne Roberts, Worship Associate

One of my favorite songs is "When Love Comes to Town," performed by B.B. King and U2. Love is the virtue most extolled, and rightly so. However, there is a great difference between love as an idea and love as a lived reality. In this sermon I will talk about what love looks like when put into practice and how love is the central pillar around which, and FROM which, religious communities should revolve/operate.

September 27, 2015

10:30 AM

"Community as a Spiritual Path"

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Tonya Wells, Worship Associate

When we think of spirituality we often think of it as a solitary, navel gazing

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enterprise. If we do so, we can miss an important dimension to our spiritual lives, namely, community. We will consider how community plays a very important, and often unrecognized part in the spiritual life.

[Wed Sept 16](#)

[Stephen
Henderson](#)

[Sun Sept 20 RE
Classes Begin](#)

[Sun Sep 27
Installation of Rev.
Riegel](#)

[**Forward To A Friend**](#)

Comments from Dr. Alexander Riegel

Greetings Everyone,

It is GREAT to be starting my second year with you, this time as your settled minister. I am looking forward to another year of positive, forward moving energy, this time ignited and sustained by our mutual commitment to be doing ministry together in the Pointes and surrounding areas for the foreseeable future. Toward that end I am putting my energies this Fall into three specific things: adult education, social justice, and building connections with like-minded groups and people in our area. Regarding the first two, I am currently working on increasing the size of these committees and altering the models by which they operate. A number of people have shown interest in participating in these committees and if you would like to do so as well, but haven't indicated such, please send me an email and let me know that: driegel@gpuc.us

I am also looking forward to creating the sermon calendar for the coming year, which I've already begun. If you have sermon requests, ideas, or other such suggestions please let me know. I'm happy to incorporate people's request into my thinking as I create sermon topics for the coming year. Things already on the docket include: community as a spiritual path; social justice topics (race relations, women's rights, and GLBT issues); the power of vulnerability; the wisdom of the pre-Socratics; the Gospel of Thomas; the divine feminine; and a monthly series entitled "Whatever Happened to Sin?" (looking at the seven vices and their corresponding virtues for the modern life). I'm also considering an animal blessing, something many UU churches do, which would take place in early October.

A few people have asked when adult education programming will kick off this year. Typically I begin that in September but I think this year we will wait until October, after the Installation. Along these lines, I hope people have the Installation on their calendar, as it is an important event in the life of the church: Sunday, September 27 at 4 PM.

Similarly, you may already have seen notification that I will be doing a repeat performance of The Holy Longing at The War Memorial, Saturday evening, November 14. Hopefully you'll be able to join us, if a second serving suits your fancy. Even further, I strongly encourage you to invite anybody you think might have an affinity for the mystic poets, as we would like to see a very good turnout in light of the fact that that The War Memorial has agreed to let us use their wonderful ballroom for the event.

Namaste,

Alex

Message from the GPUC Board of Trustees

We're looking forward to an exciting new church year. In June, the newly elected Board met with the old Board for a day-long Retreat where we identified several areas of interest for the coming year. The new Board met in August for the first time, and is looking at ideas for increasing the efficiency of our committee structure, enhancing our communications and marketing, and considering some capital improvements.

You've probably noticed the new paving in our parking lot. Thanks a million to Russ Chavey for his coordination of this much needed project. More improvements to the walkway will be coming soon.

We're anticipating a lovely event on September 27 when we'll be installing our newly settled minister, Alex Riegel. Thanks to Pi Irwin and her committee! There are a couple of big fundraising events coming up; the Resale Shop Art Sale in October and our big semi-annual Auction. These are opportunities for everyone to be involved. I know our newly enlarged Adult RE committee will also be developing many offerings for the coming year. As I'm listing events, I'm sure this is just the tip of the iceberg, many other activities are in the works so stay tuned.

Remember, that you are welcome to attend Board Meetings which generally fall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except for September this year: 9/15 at 6:45 pm). Also, members of the Board and the Committee on Ministry will be on hand after services to take your comments and answer questions.

Here's to a great new year!

Robin Ramsay
President, GPUC Board of Trustees

Announcements

Alliance News

The Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters in cooperation with the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Alliance will present an evening with Stephen Henderson. Mr. Henderson is the editor of the Detroit Free Press editorial page. His topic will be "Detroit: Bringing Its Success to the Neighborhoods." The program will be on Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm, at GPUC. Detroit is our nearest neighbor and we are all impacted by the changes happening there. The program is free so mark your calendars and bring your friends.

GPUC's CHALICE CIRCLES for 2015-2016

WHAT: Small group gatherings with thought-provoking & lively discussions based upon a monthly topic

WHY: Strengthen & deepen interpersonal connections, encourage spiritual growth, & provide open, supportive & nurturing spaces

WHO: up to 10 church members/friends, including 1 or 2 trained facilitators

WHEN: monthly gatherings, October - May, evening & afternoon times

WHERE: GPUC library

More information forthcoming; registration in September.

Questions? Contact: Chris Vadino or Birdi Hansen-Marr

The Demand for Tutors Exceeds Supply

This year, ten of our members and friends tutored in three Detroit Public Schools: Detroit Merit, Nicholson and Clark. Yet we did not have enough tutors to fill the requests of a first and second grade teacher at Merit and a second grade teacher at Maire school in Grosse Pointe. There are many ways to tutor that meet your needs and the teacher's. Tutors and the teachers work out the best day, best time, and subject matter, usually reading and/or math. However, some members work in the library, and one worked with the Broadcast Club that met after school to improve the PA announcements. If you have a hobby or talent to share, the school clubs meet for an hour on Wednesdays for a period of eight weeks scheduled several times during the year. Most tutors volunteer an hour and a half a week, although some prefer longer sessions or several sessions a week.

The schools are happy to have us as tutors and are very appreciative and vocal about it. The students also show their appreciation in different ways according to their age, but all of them grow quite attached to our presence and worry about us if we have to miss a week. The schools are flexible and accommodating too. Even snowbirds who

are gone for the winter months are welcome. If you would like more information or want to sign up for tutoring, please contact Susie Boynton, the tutoring coordinator.

Musical Notes

WANTED: Singers to join the BEST church choir, with the BEST Musical Director this side of the universe - Joseph Palazzolo, and singing for the MOST APPRECIATIVE congregation ON the universe! (Not that I'm partial to GPUC & its choir or anything!)

This new church year is going to be full of excitement, including more musical events! Come be a part of the GPUC Adult Choir and share in the wonderment! We especially need sopranos and tenors. There are NO gender restrictions on any vocal parts.

The Adult Choir sings twice a month at Sunday services. We rehearse each Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., in room #2 (purple room) of the RE Wing. On the Sundays we sing, we rehearse at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. While we would love for every singer to be available for every rehearsal and performance, we realize that this is not realistic. But, if you are able to join us pretty regularly, that's great. No serious musical skills are necessary, just a love of singing, learning, and being a part of this awesome choir. There will be plenty of opportunity to learn musical skills and techniques from our illustrious director and teacher.

Added bonus - many of us go out to Bogartz (on Mack) for 'beer rehearsal' afterward to continue having fun with our choir friends!

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 9th, at 7:30 pm in the purple room. Joseph will be able to determine what section best suits your vocal range, if you are not sure.

Questions? Call or email - Joseph Palazzolo or Birdi Hansen-Marr

Youth Choir

Taylor Swift, One Direction, Idina Menzel, Five Seconds of Summer . . .

Parents, are you getting weary of hearing your child sing the lyrics to songs by these popular artists all summer? Well, GPUC can help remove some of those annoying 'ear worms' by inviting your child(ren) to sing in GPUC's fantastic YOUTH CHOIR! Led by our very talented Music Director, Joseph Palazzolo, children in elementary and middle school are encouraged to sing with other church youth and feel the excitement and appreciation of performing before a captive and loving congregation. (as well as learning some new song lyrics)!

The Youth Choir performs about twice per month during the Sunday Service and generally rehearses weekly, immediately after the Sunday Service for 30 minutes in the purple room of the RE wing. On the Sundays the Youth Choir performs, there is a pre-service rehearsal in the sanctuary at 10:00 am. No special musical skills are necessary, just the joy of singing a variety of cool songs, the willingness to listen and learn, attend the majority of rehearsals, and have FUN!

The first rehearsal for GPUC's Youth Choir will be Sunday, Sept. 20th, at 11:45 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Palazzolo

Hope to see new faces and hear new voices in our amazing Youth Choir this fall!
Birdi Hansen-Marr, Music Committee Chair

Art Mart

You've Gotta have Art is coming to GPUC, this fall, Saturday, October 17, in the Annex. We need your donations. Reproductions, original works, paintings, watercolors, oil, multi-media, quality, pottery, and ceramics. No garage/house sale leftovers, please. All items in excellent to very good condition are welcome. Items accepted at the discretion of the ART MART committee.

The Art Mart is both fundraiser and community event. It will be marketed to the five Grosse Pointes and its neighbors: Detroit, Eastpointe, Roseville, and St. Clair Shores. It's a great way to meet and greet our neighbors.

We will accept donations from Sunday, September 13th until Sunday October 11th. Bring your donations to the vestibule before services, 9:30 until 10:15, or after services, 11:30 until 12 noon. For home pickup, call Suzanne Ross. Questions? email Suzanne Ross, or call.

ART MART Committee: Juli Moore, Margo Palmer, Suzanne Ross

Sit and Stitch

Sit and Stitch will meet on the following days this Fall. All are welcome to join us for an evening of social stitching (knit, crochet, quilting, needlepoint, etc.). Please contact Ann Helm with any questions. Feel free to just drop in and join the group!

September 8 - 7-9 pm

September 22 - NO Sit and Stitch

October 13 - 4:30 - 6:30 pm

October 27 - 7-9 pm

November 10 - 4:30 - 6:30 pm

November 24 - NO Sit and Stitch

WHAT IS SLOW ROLL?

Slow Roll is a group bicycle ride that meets every Monday night in Detroit and has expanded into a Global network of community rides. Each week we meet at different venues and take a unique route throughout the city, including all the major and minor neighborhoods that we are so proud of.

Slow Roll is for everyone; all ages, all skill levels and every type of bike is welcome. Our slow pace keeps the group safe and gives riders a unique perspective of our great city and its neighborhoods. This is a fun and diverse event. For more information on the Slow Roll or to register go to www.slowroll.bike. Anyone interested in joining a GPUC contingent for the Monday night rides please contact [Rudy Wedenoja](#).



Thank you to Grounds Crew

On Saturday, July 25, we had an extra grounds cleanup day as part of preparations for the September installation of Reverend Alex. While we did not have the "many hands" I had hoped for, we did have a few very hard working hands. Specifically, I wish to thank Ed and Jenny Marck and Rudy Wedenoja for their invaluable help in clearing the lot lines. We will all have another opportunity to spruce up the grounds in September just prior to the installation on September 27. Stay tuned.

Russell Chavey
Grounds Committee

Newsletter Deadline

This month's deadline is Friday September 18, 2015 at noon. Please submit your contributions to newsletter@GPUC.US.

Rudy Wedenoja, Editor

Religious Education News

Welcome to the 2015-16 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 Jewish-Christian religions and ending with world religions. For the 2015-16 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 can discuss and discover their own beliefs, values and ideals.



Our program is 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.

Religious Education Lessons

September 13th will be our first Sunday back with an All Family Service. Please remember to bring your registration forms. On the following Sunday, September 20th, all students will start their Sunday experience in their classrooms. The nursery will be open every Sunday including Labor Day Sunday, September 6th. Our caring sitters will be there to greet our young UU's.

Registration forms have been mailed out to all past members. 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

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