

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

October 2016

Upcoming Services

October 2, 2016

10:30 AM

When Gulliver Woke Up

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Anne Roberts

Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" is a fantastic fictional account of a one Lemuel Gulliver who, travelling the world, finds himself in the land of the Lilliputians; people less than six inches tall but whom for all the world think themselves the most significant. There is great psychological depth in this story. We will focus on the part of the story where Gulliver wakes up only to find himself bound by the Lilliputians. What insight for our own lives might we gather from considering Gulliver's condition?

October 9, 2016

10:30 AM

Learning from the Legacy of the Suffragist Movement

Tonya Wells

Worship Associate: Joe Buttiglieri

We will examine the sacrifice of the suffragists to "get the vote" for women to inspire us to forge ahead to assure full human rights for women across the globe. There is so much that is yet to be done.

October 16, 2016

10:30 AM

Falling Leaves and Clinging Minds

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Cynthia Luce

The Buddha nailed it when he said that suffering is part and parcel of life. Suffering can have a lot of causes, from physical ailments to mental anguish. Another source of suffering is when we try to make the transient permanent. This is a very deep insight when we consider that everything in life is transient. How should we live in this ever changing world when one of the things human beings seem most to need is permanence?

October 23, 2016

10:30 AM

Moyers, Rand, and the Sacrifice Fulcrum

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

Acts of sacrifice are ubiquitous in life but are almost never noticed, let alone acknowledged. Indeed, not only is sacrifice ubiquitous, it is a prerequisite for life. Some laud sacrifice as moral act (Bill Moyers) while others find sacrifice morally suspect (Ayn Rand). Where should we stand on this moral question?

October 30, 2016

10:30 AM

Annual Day of the Dead Service

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Cynthia Luce

Loss is a part of life and its effect upon our lives gets short shrift. Together we will contemplate the place of loss in life and honor the lives of those we have lost. We invite you to bring a photo or other memento that represents a person(s) whose memory you would like to honor. Tables will be available to display our mementos and you will have an opportunity to take a moment, if you would like, to share your memory with us.

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Alexander's Meander

*All things mellow in the mind,
a slight of hand, a trick of time...*



I blinked! Now summer has passed and autumn is upon us... "time passages" (any AI Stewart fans out there?) and all that... It was a very nice summer but I am happy to be back at it with my GPUC peeps again!

I am sorry if you missed the Brother Sun concert the other night but for those of you who were able to make it, weren't they great?! I am already talking to them about a return visit to kick off next year...

Otherwise, there are several things to which I look forward this year:

1) My one day spiritual study and practice retreats. This is an opportunity to take a deeper dive into spiritual matters with me, starting with the one day retreat, Knocking from the Inside (see event description later in this newsletter), during which we will explore the Sufi tradition and have an opportunity to engage more deeply in spiritual practice together.

2) The November visit by Russill Paul (see event description later in this newsletter). Russill, as many of you know, is a friend and mentor of mine and leads the pilgrimage on which I go from time to time at Shantivanam, an ashram in Tamil Nadu, India. This visit is an opportunity for you to get a deeper glimpse into the interspiritual vision and have access to a wonderful individual, musician, and spiritual teacher. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

3) OUR VISION PROCESS - As you should know by now, we are launching a vision process that is vital to the short and midterm direction of our shared ministry. I am very excited about this because I see it as the articulation of our shared ministry concerning which I am incredibly optimistic! I continue to have great hope and confidence in our ability to accomplish a great deal together and see this as the starting point for the next stage in our ministry together. Please do your best to participate during this process, beginning with the congregational meeting(s) following service October 2nd OR (not and) the congregational meeting Monday evening, October 10th. (Again, see later in this newsletter for details about this process and these meetings.)

Finally, I want to reiterate how honored and humble I feel to be serving as your minister. You are a fantastic group of folk and GPUC is a fantastic place for my continued growth as a minister.

Namaste! - (The light in me honors the light in you and when we recognize this light together, we are one...)

Alex

Message from the GPUC Board of Trustees

How nice to finally have Autumn with a crisp sunny day as I write this. I had a wonderful time listening to Brother Sun last Thursday evening and saw many of you there. Now, I'm looking forward to our Committee Fair on 9/25, and hope many of you will check out volunteer opportunities. Thanks to Karen Webb and the Leadership Development team for organizing this event!

Paul Rowady has stepped down from his position as Chair of Endowment which he has held for several years. We thank him for generously lending his financial expertise to GPUC's investment decisions, and are happy that he will continue to contribute as Board Secretary. For the time-being, the Finance committee will supervise the investments. We will explore the future of the Endowment Committee in Finance and the Board. Second, we will very soon be celebrating the years that Jill Crane served our adult religious education as Director and later Assistant. Thank you for your dedication, Jill. Jill has moved on to chairing the Fellowship Committee, and we look forward to seeing some fun ideas for fellowship!

HVAC UPDATE: On February 7, 2016, the GPUC congregation authorized the Board of Trustees to spend up to \$130,000 to add air-conditioning to the sanctuary, gallery and vestibule. Following that meeting, an HVAC task force was formed under Veronica Smith, our Building Chair, including several engineers from our membership. The task force researched our facility and recommended hiring a supervisory engineer for the project, which we did. In conjunction with the task force, the engineer drew up technical plans. We have received 2 bids for this job. The lower bid, by a large margin, is for \$119,000 and excludes the electrical work

that will need to be done. It is possible that the electrical work could cost an additional \$20,000. Therefore, the cost of air-conditioning will exceed the amount the congregation has authorized by approximately \$10,000.

At this time, it is necessary for the Board to come back to the congregation to authorize the additional funds necessary for the air-conditioning project. We would like to hold a brief meeting on October 16th immediately after the church service.

When we initially proposed this project, we were in high hopes that it would be complete by now, and early in the research process we also had hope of a lower cost. However, several impediments have delayed the process. We had difficulty finding an engineer to supervise our project and then we also had difficulty finding companies that would bid on the project. We have been told that there is a shortage of tradespeople in Southeast Michigan since the economic downturn in 2008. There is high demand with the economy improving, and low supply. This situation has driven up the price of labor. Our preferred bidder expressed his surprise at the high cost of labor at this time.

Please attend the **Congregational Meeting following service on October 16th**. Your voice is important in our democratic process. We will be glad to answer questions at that time, or you can always contact me.

Robin Ramsay
President

A Vision for GPUC



We've Been Busy Visionearing!

Thanks to all who submitted their Visionear Survey by the deadline, Friday, September 23 at noon. This important first step is the basis for the rest of our work to define the Vision of what we want Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church to be in five years.

Now we're ready to take the next step!

Two meetings are scheduled to for the congregation to review respond and react to the survey results together.

The first meeting is scheduled after church October 2. A light lunch and child care will be available.

If you can't make that meeting, please attend the one on October 10, 7 pm in the sanctuary. If childcare is needed, e-mail Julie Artis, julie@gpuc.us

Following the October 2 and October 10 meetings, the Visionear Team will begin to draft a Vision statement based on the survey results and congregational responses to them. When that draft is complete, the Team will once again ask for congregational review.

Thanks so much for your participation and enthusiasm as we plan for the future.

The Visionear Team : Chair, Chris Vadino, John Artis, Russ Chavey, Pi Irwin, Reverend Dr. Alex Riegel and Tonya Wells.

Religious Education News



The traditional church school is in full swing. We work hard to empower our young UU's in our classes to care and then to act in our community and our world. One of the ways we encourage caring at GPUC/RE program is through our Kids Who Give project. We ask each child to donate some time and material goods in our community between September and June.

We all need to inspire giving and the spirit of giving. The past years have shown us on TV/natural disasters, terrorist attacks around the globe and terrible images of suffering and pain. We want to teach our children lessons of charity as a way of life. We must start while they are young. How does this become a habit to give? We suggest the following hours for service and giving: high schoolers-10 hours a month, juniors-10 hours, upper elementary-8 hours and lower elementary-5 hours a month. Some suggestions on how to implement this are to ask your children to help their neighbors, donate clothes, toys and books, on their birthdays donate in their name to a local charity, donate to the humane society, volunteer at church, donate food to our food collection each month and continue to seek other ways to help.

Teach your children that volunteering and charity is not just for emergencies. In order for it to become a habit it is good to do something every month. It will become a way of life, rather than a moment when something big happens. When you give to others you give to yourself and your family.

Religious Education Lessons

All classes will be studying Abrahamic Faiths for this church year. The classes are beginning with developing their class rules and setting the stage on how they will treat each other during the year.

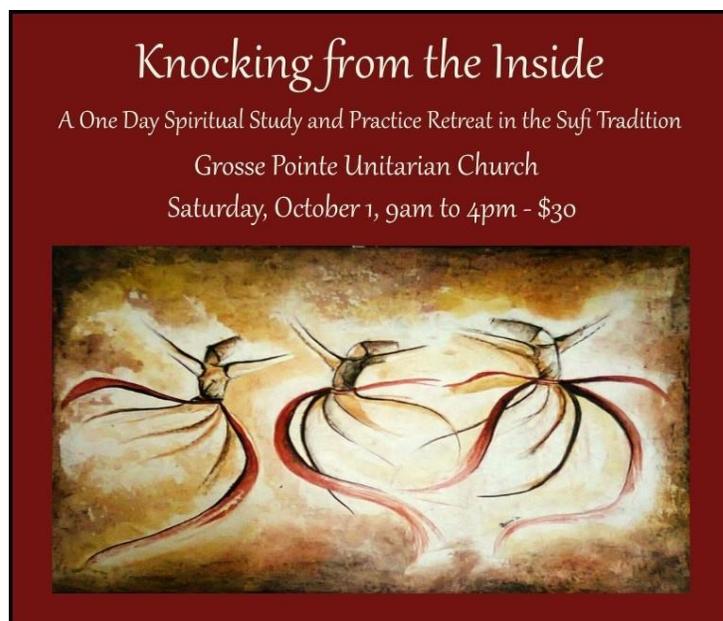
The GPUC nursery will be open at 9:30 a.m. every week for our young UU's. Remember there is always a pot of coffee at 9:30 a.m. if you want to come in and chat with other parents.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, Oct. 2-RE Committee Meeting at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30-UNICEF Trick or Treat, Halloween Parties
Sunday, Nov. 6-Junior's Spaghetti Dinner

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

Spiritual Retreat



A One Day Spiritual Study and Practice Retreat in the Sufi Tradition Saturday, October 1, 2016

This is the first of four retreats scheduled between now and May 2017. Each retreat will focus on one of four mystical traditions, within Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. We will examine the teachings from one of these mystical streams as well as provide guidance on a variety of spiritual practices, i.e., mantra, silent meditation, walking meditation, and turning exercises.

Retreats run from 9am - 4pm (with a one and a half hour lunch break).

Cost: \$30 at the door (lunch not included).

<http://www.gpuuc.org/upcoming-events.html>

Boogie Woogie Piano Concert



MATTHEW BALL, attorney-turned Boogie, Blues & Ragtime musician, will perform the opening benefit concert for Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church's Concert Series, Second Year, showcasing Michigan's talented artists.

Described as "MICHIGAN'S BEST" in Ragtime, Boogie & Blues, Matt will perform piano favorites from the SWING DANCING DAYS of the 20s, 30s, & 40s!

DO NOT miss this special toe-tappin' program of FAMILY piano fun, featuring classics like Suwanee River, Over the Rainbow, Amazing Grace, Waltzing Matilda, The Entertainer, Side by Side, In the Mood, Chopsticks Boogie, Bumble Boogie & MORE!

www.boogiewoogiekid.com & You Tube videos

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
MATTHEW BALL
"The Boogie Woogie Kid"

THE OPENING CONCERT
of the 2nd Year

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 15, 2016
7:30 pm

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
17150 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

TICKETS:

Adults: \$15 - Advance \$20 - At Door

Seniors (60+) & Students: \$12 - Advance
\$15 - At Door

Call to reserve: 313.881.0420

NEW! Order with PayPal!

You can now pay for your ticket via PayPal through the church website: <http://www.gpuuc.org/upcoming-events.html> There is a \$1 service fee for using PayPal. If paying via PayPal, we will keep your name at the event ticket desk for check-in upon arrival. NO tickets will be otherwise issued, so please bring a copy of your PayPal email receipt as proof of purchase.

Russill Paul November 11 and 12



Russill Paul is a Sounds True artist and interspiritual teacher. Using music as a vehicle for inner experience, combined with an incredible breadth of interspiritual knowledge and a decades long spiritual practice, Russill will teach us about love mysticism and the Divine Feminine, lead us in a variety of spiritual practices, e.g., mantra and meditation, and introduce us to the sacred depth both of ancient Indian music as well as his own compositions. Join us for the entirety of the weekend's events (Friday evening Nov. 11 - Saturday evening Nov. 12) or for select events:

Date: Nov. 11th - 12th

Friday Evening: Rise of the Urban Mystic - \$15

Saturday: Love Mysticism & the Divine Feminine - \$95

Saturday Evening: Mystic Heart - \$15

Cost: When purchased separately, the cost of all three events totals \$125. If you plan to attend all three events you may save \$15 (the equivalent of one of the evening events) if you purchase the entire weekend package by selecting the Love Mysticism and the Divine Feminine Package when paying via PayPal on the church website: www.gpuuc.org/upcoming-events. ***NOTE - REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR**

SATURDAY'S WORKSHOP: Your PayPal receipt verifies your registration however, if you plan to pay at the door you MUST email the church office to register for Saturday's workshop: gpuc@gpuuc.us

Announcements

First Sunday Food Sharing

Sunday, October 2 will be our next First Sunday Food Sharing. Our donations are taken to Crossroads East on Moross, just east of I-94. This location is close to our church home and has a food pantry, clothing closet, provides job assistance, and counseling. We will be collecting non-perishables such as cereal, noodles, rice, canned fruits, veggies, soups, and sauces. If you prefer to donate monetarily, your money is used to buy items such as eggs, milk, meat, produce, and bread. Our donations are greatly appreciated and really help keep the shelves, fridge, and freezer stocked. Our donations are always gratefully received! From this January through September 19th, GPUC has provided 4,794 lbs. of food and toiletries to Crossroads East! Many, many thanks!

Jenny Marck

Grosse Pointe Community Chorus will present a dinner cabaret, "Broadway Serenade,"

This exciting event is on Friday, October 14, at the Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter Road, St Clair Shores. Doors open at 6:00 pm, followed by Italian buffet dinner at 6:30 and entertainment at 7:00. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at Assumption, Posterity Gallery in the Village, Do by Hair Co. in Grosse Pointe Park, and Moehring Woods Florist in Grosse Pointe Woods. Learn more at www.grossepointecommunitychorus.org or see Chorus members Chris Vadino, Birdi Hansen-Marr or Janet Weber.

Fall Grounds Cleanup

This year's fall grounds cleanup will take place on Saturday, October 8 (with Saturday, October 15 as a rain date). To those of you who have participated in the past, thank you again. To those who have not, please consider joining us. We gather at 9 am to clean up leaves and other debris from the church grounds, we trim some of the growth around the edges of the parking lot and usually do a couple other very small yard improvement projects. No particular skill is required, just some enthusiasm and perhaps some gloves, a rake (and a tarp and/or hedge trimmers if you have them). You may leave whenever you like, we will be done no later than 11am. This is always a family friendly affair, children are welcome. We look forward to another morning of outdoor "communion" at GPUC.

Russell Chavey
Grounds Committee

UU Crafters

We will continue this Fall on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Our October meetings are October 18 and 25 in the Annex, from 7-9pm. We will meet November 15 and then take a break until 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. Please contact Ann Helm with any questions.

Women's Book Discussion Group

The group will begin meeting on the third Wednesday of the month beginning in October. We will meet in the church library at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served with a small donation collected each month. Book lists are available in the church foyer or by email from Jill Crane. Let her know if you need one sent to you.

Wednesday, October 19th, 5:30pm, Church library

Life After Life by Kate Atkinson

What if you could live again and again, until you got it right?

On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born to an English banker and his wife. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. For as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in a variety of ways, while the young century marches on towards its second cataclysmic world war. Does Ursula's apparently infinite number of lives give her the power to save the world from its inevitable destiny? And if she can -- will she? Darkly comic, startlingly poignant, and utterly original -- this is Kate Atkinson at her absolute best. Discussion Leader: Audrey Brosowski

Jill Crane

Alliance Luncheon Program:

Join us in the Annex for a pizza and salad luncheon on Tuesday, October 11th. Our featured speaker Suzanne Bilek, a specialist in local art and history, will show a power point presentation on the Lake Superior Circle Tour. Program highlights include Art and Nature, Wilderness and Water and History and

Indian Culture. Don't miss this 1100 mile journey around one of our Great Lakes. Lunch will be served at Noon for a cost of \$7.00. Please contact Mary Morshead for a reservation.

Musical Notes

Rehearsals - Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, room #2 of RE Wing. GPUC's Adult Choir want YOU! NO major choral experience necessary, we're all learning. Choir SINGS 1st & 3rd Sundays during the service with Warm-up at 9:30 am in sanctuary. ALL voice parts welcome, Joseph Palazzolo will help determine your best singing range. Choir sings a wide range of musical genres. Choir is flexible, understanding singers are not always available.

Many choristers socialize after Wednesday rehearsals by going out for 'Beer Rehearsal '! Singing in GPUC's ADULT CHOIR is a nonthreatening, informative, inexpensive, and FUN way to serve our church community, providing an important part of the service, to an appreciative congregation, all while making new friends. Come sing with us!

QUESTIONS? Contact Joseph Palazzolo or Birdi Hansen-Marr through the church office: 313.881.0420

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by Friday, October 21 at noon. They should be sent to newsletter@gpuc.us.

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