

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

May 2017

Upcoming Services

May 7, 2017

10:30 AM

Love Better

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

As religious people one of the hardest things we commit to doing is to live according to our principles, which typically call us to a different way of being in the world. In this sermon I will explore why living according to our principles is so difficult, against the back drop of what I consider to be the highest principle by which we are called to live, namely, unconditional love. How's that working for you anyway?

May 14, 2017

10:30 AM

www.brain.net

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

Last year I preached a sermon entitled "www.impressionsarefood.xxx". A part of that sermon touched upon brain development and susceptibility to one's environment. I am further going to explore that theme in this sermon, highlighting what I see as a social crisis regarding our youth that goes unrecognized in our culture. (We see the symptoms of this crisis in our youth in numerous forms, from risky sexual behavior to drug use to suicide.) And, I will pose the very difficult question of what, given what I will share that morning, we ought to be doing to address this crisis.

May 21, 2017

10:30 AM

Parents as Resident Theologians

Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Janet Weber

This sermon title is taken from an old UUA curriculum. It is self-explanatory. Parents are especially encouraged to attend this service as I will be discussing the why and how of taking responsibility for your part in the religious education of your child(ren). This task cannot be left to the church alone. A few hours a month in church school alone will not produce the religious competency you want to see in your child(ren). If you want truly to raise a child(ren) with UU values, this is a must hear sermon!

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May 28, 2017

10:30 AM

Memorial Day Weekend

Worship Leader TBD:

Worship Associate: TBD

[Tue May 16 UU
Crafters](#)

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Alexander's Meander



Our Circle Garden

The other day when I arrived at work Joan Hines and Connie Roberts were hard at work in our circle garden - early morning, on a cold, rainy day! When I first started ministry I was excited to do my first sermon, my first wedding, my first baby dedication... now, in my 26th year, these things, though still very meaningful to me, are not what excites me most about ministry. What excites me most are things like our circle garden (and today's incredible turn out for our Earth Day efforts to take care of our beautiful grounds). Actually, it's not the circle garden per se but what the circle garden represents that excites me most.

Our circle garden is cared for by handful of people (all women - men take notice!). They do their work when very few people are around to see them, to no fanfare, and with no expectation of recognition. And the result? Our beautiful circle garden that enlivens the spirit every time someone walks through it! The loving care that goes into that circle garden is a gift to us all. THAT is what excites me most about ministry these days: the quiet, committed, loving care that goes into making GPUC the amazing place it is. Our circle garden is but one such example...



So, this Bud's for you, whoever you are, caretakers of our circle garden or unrecognized giver(s) in one of the myriad other ways that goes unnoticed but that has great effect upon us all. You bless us all - especially me! And, this meander is for you, who benefit from such givers - take notice - give thanks - join in...

Namaste!

Alex

Message from the GPUC Board of Trustees

We once again are looking forward to GPUC's Annual Meeting coming up in May, where the congregation will vote on approving a Budget for the 2017-2018 church year. The Finance Committee and Board have been busy formulating the budget which we will share with the congregation at an informational meeting on May 7. In preparation, we are anxiously awaiting more returns from our annual pledge drive, so we can have a better estimate of next year's potential income. If you have not yet responded to requests for pledge information, please do so quickly. Thanks to Paul Rowady, Joe Buttiglieri and Chuck Palmer for working on the Canvass appeal.

Our Annual Meeting is the cornerstone of our democratic process. We will summarize our past year, vote on approval of the GPUC Budget, vote in Board Trustees and officers, members of the Leadership Development Committee and members of the Committee on Ministry, as well as our Auditor. It is important that we all participate in this democratic process. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting. All members in good standing will be eligible to vote. There are some minimum requirements that qualify members as being in good standing. Please see the relevant section of the Bylaws below. If you believe you may not be able to vote, based on the provisions of the By-laws, you can discuss your situation with Rev. Dr. Riegel. He can make recommendations to the Board about waiving requirements under some circumstances. We are a democratic society, and hope as many people as possible will attend the meeting and will vote. As always, members of the Board are also happy to address your concerns.

In other news, two task forces are charged with investigating methods of implementing improvements to our facilities and programming that were identified in our recent Vision Statement and process. Chris Vadino heads the Facilities Task Force, which is formed and has been meeting. John Artis will be heading the Programming Task Force, and is in the process of identifying potential members. In addition, the Board is considering the Landscaping Plan delivered by the planner we hired, Candy Sweeney. Russ Chavey is heading a Task Force to review the plan so as to develop proposals for the Board to begin implementing some initial improvements. Plantings for the Memorial Garden will probably comprise the first step. We are also hoping to have the Parking Lot Median/Walkway paved in the next few months.

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 21, AND THE BUDGET HEARING ON MAY 7!

Robin Ramsay
President, GPUC Board of Trustees

Annual Meeting

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 12 noon.

Our Treasurer, Laura Bartell, and other Board members will explain the proposed Budget for the 2017-18 church year. This is the best opportunity to understand our budget and to ask questions. All members are invited to attend this important meeting. The congregation will vote on accepting this budget at the Annual meeting on May 21st.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday May 21, 2017 AT 12:00 noon

The annual Congregational Meeting of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church will take place on Sunday, May 21, 2017 immediately following the service.

We invite you to attend the Annual Meeting to:

- Vote on the proposed annual budget
- Elect new Board Members, Officers, Committee on Ministry and Leadership Development Committee
- Consider any other business that may properly be brought to the membership

All members in good standing are urged to attend this important meeting.

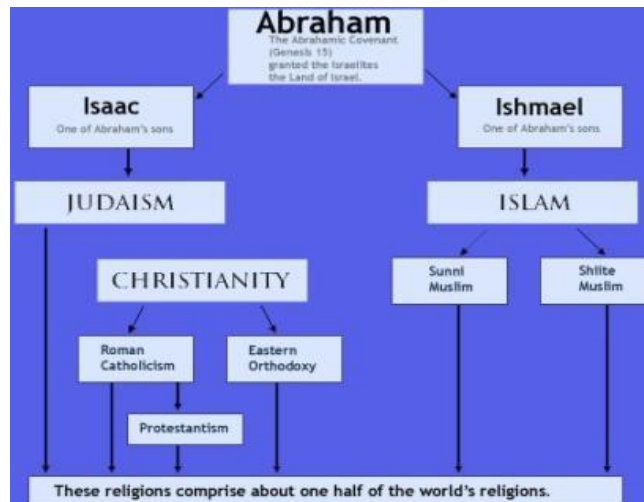
Respectfully,
Paul Rowady
Secretary, Board of Trustees

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING.

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting in May, where we will hear a summary of the past year, vote for a new budget for 2017-2018, vote for Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, and Leadership Development Committees. According to our Bylaws, there are some requirements that need to be met in order to vote at the meeting. Please read the relevant section of the By-laws below. If you believe you may not be able to vote, based on the provisions of the By-laws, you can discuss your situation with Rev. Dr. Riegel. He can make recommendations to the Board about waiving requirements under some circumstances. We are a democratic society, and hope as many people as possible will attend the meeting and will vote. As always, members of the Board are also happy to address your concerns.

ARTICLE X - VOTING

- A. Voting and eligibility for elective office at any Annual or special meeting of the Society shall be limited to those Regular Members (defined previously in Article III) (a) who have been recorded as Members at a meeting of the Board of Trustees and (b) who have, as a matter of record on the books of the Society, contributed to the Society during the twelve (12) months completed before the month in which the meeting is held an amount sufficient to cover the current costs of membership in the Unitarian Universalist District of Michigan and the Unitarian Universalist Association. The requirement for a minimum monetary contribution may be waived by the Board upon the Minister's recommendation. Voting shall normally be by Members present at regularly or specially called meetings.*



The Abrahamic Faiths

It's hard to believe that our church school year is winding down so quickly! This year we have been studying the Abrahamic Faiths for the Lower through Senior High grades. Sunday, June 4, at 10:30 a.m. is our Religious Education Sunday. Please mark your calendars and join us to share our celebration of learning this past year. Our students will present a project from each class level. Also, our graduating seniors will share their "Statement of Faith" project. Mark your calendars for this exciting end of the year Religious Education Service.

Sunday, May 14 is Mother's Day! The first Mother's Day was started by a tiny, red-haired, woman named Julia Ward Howe, who lived from 1819-1910. She was a Unitarian, who started the special day for all women, all over the world to work for PEACE. She believed that mothers should step up in the matters of wars. She believed in leaders using peaceful ways to settle problems. She started a festival which she named "Mother's Day," and she chose June 2 as the day of celebration. In 1906 a woman named Anna Jarvis proposed that Mother's Day be celebrated on a different day and the US Congress settled the matter by voting in 1913 for Mother's Day to be the second Sunday in May.

Julia Ward Howe is best remembered for writing the famous song, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and for her stance against slavery. Julia wrote a Mother's Day Proclamation that you can read at www.peace.ca/mothersdayproclamation.htm As parents, we can share our UU faith on Mother's Day by teaching our children and reviewing our 7 Principles of Peace with the whole family.

LOVE-HOPE-JUSTICE-FORGIVENESS-COURAGE-FAITH-UNITY

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.

Lower and Upper Elementary students in May will finish up their lessons on the Abrahamic Faiths. They will also make a Mother's Day gift on May 14th.

Junior and Senior High students will finish up their lessons on the Abrahamic Faiths. The parents and students continue to make coffee each week for our church congregation.

Dates to remember:

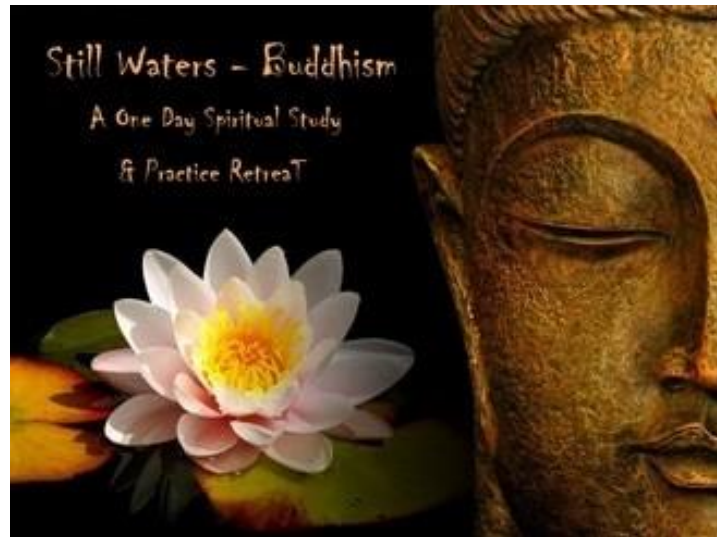
May 7-RE Committee Meeting at 9:15 a.m.

May 14-Mother's Day

June 4-RE Sunday

Julie Artis-Religious Education Director

Spiritual Retreat



***Still Waters
Buddhism: A One Day Spiritual Study and Practice Retreat***

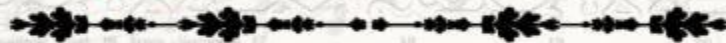
This is the fourth of four retreats scheduled between now and May 2017. Each retreat focuses on one of four mystical traditions, within: Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Each morning we examine the teachings from one of these mystical traditions. In the afternoon, Dr. Riegel provides guidance 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, off site or bring your own lunch).

Date: Saturday, May 6th, 2017

Cost: \$30 at the door (lunch not included) or via PayPal on GPUC website.
(<http://www.gpuuc.org/upcoming-events.html>).

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.

Joseph Palazzolo, *Classical Piano:*



Music of Rebellion: The Gnarly Side of Classical



Saturday, May 13, 7:30PM
Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
"Saturdays at 7:30" Concert Series

17150 Maumee Avenue | Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
(313) 881 - 0420 | www.gpuuc.org

Rebellion takes many forms, from breaking rules to expressing anger at injustice, to merely expanding the musical palette. You will hear a seldom-heard polonaise of Chopin, the Afro-Latin beats of Gottschalk (an unjustly-neglected American composer), one of Prokofiev's "War Sonatas", and Scriabin—another Russian. The program closes with George Gershwin, one of America's greatest iconoclasts.

This is our Music Director Mr. Palazzolo's second year on our concert series. With interesting and witty verbal program notes, he gives us a taste of the times when the composer wrote the music.

Come hear some of the world's most stirring piano music May 13th.
Proceeds of concert benefit Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.



Moonlight Sonata
Beethoven

Polonaise in F# minor
"The Tragic"
Chopin

Souvenir de Porto Rico
Gottschalk

Sonata No 6 in A
Op 82: "War Sonata"
Prokofiev

Etude in C# minor
Op 2 No 1
Scriabin

Rhapsody in Blue
Gershwin

TICKETS: Presale – Adults \$15
Seniors (60+) & Students \$12
At Door – Adults \$20
Seniors (60+) & Students \$15

Go to:
www.gpuuc.org/upcoming-events.html
and buy tickets with PayPal or buy them through the church office during business hours, (313) 881-0420.

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.



JOHNSON'S
PRUSSIA

Mozart Requiem & Bach Ascension Oratorio

With the Michigan Sinfonietta and Soloists

*Monica Ely, Michele Fredericks, Ginger Thorne-Herrmann,
Stan Harr, John Hummel, James Moore, Jr., Greg Williams*

You won't want to miss an evening of exhilarating choral orchestral music with a special concert that celebrates our historic 30th Anniversary Season. **Mozart's Requiem** is one of the most beautiful and well-loved masterpieces ever written, and **Bach's Ascension Oratorio** is festive, celebratory, and joyous!

**Saturday, May 20, 2017
at 7:30 pm
St. Paul on the Lake**

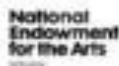
157 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms

**Tickets: \$25 individual
\$22 senior \$10 student**

**Ticket Information
(313) 882-0118**

**www.detroitconcertchoir.org
dcc@detroitconcertchoir.org**

*This season is supported by the Michigan
Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the
National Endowment for the Arts.*



Announcements

Send a Kid to Camp

The Schools Tutoring Committee is launching the campaign to send 8-10 of the most academically improved sixth graders at Detroit Merit Academy to the Howell Nature Center for a week. GPUC members and 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. The camp session chosen offers the students the chance to visit the Sleeping Bear Dunes Park and to experience outdoor activities in that beautiful part of Michigan. In the sixth year of this program at Merit, the Committee hopes to raise close to

\$3,200 (about \$385 each with a discount from the Camp) to reward these hardworking students. Donations of any size are welcome. Please make checks out to GPUC and put "Camp" in the memo line. Thank you! Questions? Please contact Susie Boynton.

PFLAG Support Meeting

PFLAG will have its next support meeting at GPUC on May 7th, 1:30-4:00pm. The meeting will feature speaker Rick Joseph, Michigan's 2015-16 Teacher of the Year, who spent his year of travel around our state advocating for the rights and needs of Michigan's LGBTQ students. In addition, PFLAG Grosse Pointe will be participating in Grosse Pointe's first Pride March on Sunday June 11 from 10-11am. GPUC members who feel strongly committed to the LGBTQ cause have Rev. Alex Riegel's good wishes to participate in the March despite its conflicting with our services that day. We hope some of the congregation will join us and possibly connect with church activities afterward.

HELP WANTED

The **Clearance Corner** located in the Resale Shop needs help. We are looking for people to help on Wednesdays for only 2 1/2 hrs. a month. There are two shifts. Morning 10:00am-12:30pm and afternoon from 12:30-3:00pm. The job involves selling merchandise and is not labor intensive. This is a great opportunity for anyone with limited time to volunteer to help the church. You will also meet the many interesting people from the community who visit our Resale Shop. Please call or email Mary Morshead if this is something that would fit into your schedule.

Our next First Sunday Food Sharing will be Sunday, May 7.

Please bring boxed, canned, or bagged food donations for our monthly contribution to the Crossroads East food pantry. If you have extra toiletry items such as toothpaste, soap, and deodorant, they are also gratefully accepted.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, your contributions are used to purchase perishables such as eggs, milk, produce, bread, and lunch meat for the pantry on a (most) weekly basis.

January through April 18, our donations to Crossroads East totaled 2,705 pounds. This represents the food and toiletry items donated on our FSFS Sundays, as well as the grocery items, deodorant, and toothpaste purchased with your monetary contributions, which totaled \$1,071.

The clients at Crossroads East, located at Salem Memorial Lutheran Church, are assisted with social services needs, supplemental food, transportation, and clothing.

Our donations are always greatly appreciated! Thank you!!!

Women's Book Discussion Group Wednesday, May 24, at 6 PM at the home of Jill Crane

This is the group's yearly potluck supper where books are chosen for the next year. All are welcome to join us; we encourage new members. No book is assigned for this meeting. Come with book ideas.

The group usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm in the church library. For the past few years we have met in the summer at a member's home, and we will continue to do so this summer.

A sign up sheet is in the foyer. Please sign up with your name and food donation. Hope to see you at the potluck!

Alliance Annual Potluck Luncheon, Tuesday, June 6

Our usual June Potluck luncheon will have a different look this year. The Alliance's main source of revenue has been from the Clearance Corner located in the Resale Shop. For many years Jean Dupuis has been

one of the co-chairs. So this year we are going to have a PARTY to thank her for the many years she has spent scheduling workers, buying supplies, organizing merchandise and in general making sure everything ran smoothly. The party will be held on Tuesday, June 6th in the Annex at Noon. The Alliance Board decided that we wanted everyone to just enjoy the party so it will be a catered affair instead of our usual potluck. All church members and friends are invited. There will be no cost to attend however since it is catered reservations will be necessary. RSVP Mary Morshead.

Care Committee Update

I'd like to extend my thanks to Mary Morshead, Joy Spurr, and Lynn Baker-Hunter for all of their continuing help on the Care Committee. Thanks also to Pat Gillis and Cynthia Luce for ushering at the memorial services. Thanks to all of the other members of the Care Committee whose help we will surely need in the future months.

Linda Lawrence, Care Committee Chair

UU Crafters

UU Crafters usually meet on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. In May we will meet on the 16th and 23rd. Our next meeting takes place on Tuesday, May 16, in the Annex, from 7-9pm. 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.

GPUC Social Justice Committee News - Volunteer Grant Writers Needed!

At our last meeting, Elaine Flowers, Congregant and VOCA Specialist, (Victims of Crime Act) introduced us to Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending (CAPP) and their work reducing incarceration, creating safer, healthier communities and guiding public spending. She is assembling a data base of experienced grant writers from our church willing to donate their time to established organizations in need of funding. Please contact her through the GPUC office for immediate volunteer opportunities.

Nancy Kouayara, GPUC Social Justice Committee

Kroger Community Rewards Program: GPUC members have been participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program since 2009. This program returns money to the participating organization based on a percentage of the purchases made by the members of the organization who have enrolled. About \$1000 has been earned by GPUC annually since the program began! Many thanks to all who are enrolled in this program. Have you signed up to participate? If not, please consider doing it as every little bit helps! Once enrolled - all you have to do is shop at Kroger. New participants are able to join the program at any time.

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

Go to [kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow](https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow) and follow the prompts remembering to check the church name. You will need to use this code: 83283.

GREAT NEWS! Kroger no longer requires each person to re-enroll in the program every year.

Our office administrator, Candy Dunn is glad to help with your enrollment, call her if you encounter trouble or can't access the internet. 313-881-0420

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by Friday, May 19 at noon. They should be sent to

newsletter@gpuc.us.

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