

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

November 2017

Upcoming Services

November 5, 2017 **10:30 AM**
Annual Day of the Dead Service
Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel **Worship Assoc.: Meghan Boomhower**

Loss is an integral part of life. At the same time it is something we avoid, not wanting to admit our own mortality. Yet loss has a great deal to teach us, if we let it. Join us as we learn lessons from loss and also honor those who have passed. Toward that end you are invited 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 why this person was significant to you.

November 12, 2017 **10:30 AM**
The Golden Years: Life's Second Tabula Rasa
Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel **Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer**

The latter stage of life is known as "the golden years," a time to which people look forward with great anticipation, enjoying the fruits of their life long efforts and having time aplenty for... pretty much whatever one wants to do (save the obstacle of money). In India this latter stage of life is known as the "forest dwelling" stage. It is a time when, rather than enjoying the fruits of one's life long efforts one sells one's personal belongings and turns toward the contemplative life. How might this Indian notion of the latter stage of life inform our western notion of it?

November 19, 2017 **10:30 AM**
Food, Glorious Food!: Thanksgiving Potluck Service
Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel **Worship Associate: Julie Artis**

Last year we shifted our traditional Stone Soup service to a Thanksgiving Potluck, with great success! So, we continue that new tradition this year, giving thanks for the bounties we share and reflecting upon the meaning of the season. *Our wonderful Fellowship Chair, Jill Crane, will soon be asking folk to help out so if she approaches you, please lend a hand.* **AND, get your favorite Thanksgiving dish ready to share at the feast!**

November 26, 2017 **10:30 AM**
TBD
Worship Leader: Diana Kohler **Worship Associate: Tonya Wells**

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Hope is the thing
with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune
without the words -
And never stops - at all.

-Emily Dickinson

What is Hope?

This is Emily Dickinson's image of hope and a beautiful image it is! But as I sit these days and listen to numerous people pour out their despondency about the state of the world, I am rethinking hope. This is NOT to knock Emily! Hope *is* a beautiful thing - but too often we present it passively.

Mind you, my rethinking hope does not imply that I am rethinking its value (Don't want to affront Pandora, either!). But I am rethinking whether Emily's genteel image of hope is the entire story. I think not.

Rather, hope has other attributes that need be recognized: tenacity, resilience, and hard fought. That latter attribute, "hard fought" is the attribute that has captured me these days. Indeed, hope is *not* a given. It is something for which we must fight at times - against ourselves - in the deepest recesses of our own souls.

When the world wearies us we sometimes have to struggle to find the hope within. This can be a difficult struggle, prying our ways through anger, fear, apathy... but in the end, after the struggle (or in the midst of it) hope is there to be found - always.

Hope endures precisely because it is not only beautiful but tenacious and resilient. In fact, when I think of hope these days I think of hope using these attributes to struggle to find us as we struggle to find her. Isn't that a great image?! It brings to mind the symbiotic state and gives me strength...

Yes, friends, the road can be rough. Stay with the struggle. You have a tenacious, resilient friend sojourning with you...

Namaste,

Alex

Religious Education News



The holiday season is beginning and the first of many holidays is Thanksgiving. This is my favorite holiday of the year. It is a **Harvest Gathering!!!** We gather with family, friends, we gather with healthy food, play games, conversation, attend church and watch parades. What could be better than this!

Let us remind ourselves and teach our children to say thanks and share a meditation before a meal.

Rituals are important to all of us, but especially to our children. Thanksgiving is the perfect day to encourage a joining together around the harvest table, lighting a candle in honor of our church's symbol, the flaming chalice, and giving thanks together in whatever way meets your family's needs.

Below are examples of some short meditations:

Let's be thankful for this day, for our work and for our play. Let's be thankful, let's be glad for the good things we have had.

Bless this food God, we pray. Make us thankful every day.

As we gather here with friends, let your love enter in. Make us thankful as we share this meal, this friendship, and this prayer.

May we have grateful hearts for all we receive and be ever mindful of the needs of others.

A circle of friends is a blessed thing; Sweet is the breaking of bread with friends; for the honor of their presence at our board, we are deeply grateful.

For this beautiful world, we give thanks. In it are all the wonders of creation. The food we eat, the clothes

we wear, the home we enjoy-may we be ever thankful for all good things.

A family can hold hands around the table, and repeat these words following the leader:

It is a blessing to be. *It is a blessing to be.* It is a blessing to be here. *It is a blessing to be here.*

It is a blessing to be here together. *It is a blessing to be here together.*

Spirit of life, our family here assembled is abidingly grateful for the beauty of this place in which we dwell. We are thankful also for healthy food to eat and the health to enjoy it, for the love that binds our lives and sustains our spirits.

Religious Education Lessons

All classes will be studying World Religions for this church year. This year's holiday pageant is **One World, One Light**. Permission slips will go out this week to all parents and students. The pageant is on Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. Remember to invite family and friends for this special morning. The GPUC nursery will be open at 10:00 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 me or other parents.

Dates to Remember:

Saturday, Nov. 11 - Auction-Senior service project

Sunday, Nov. 19 - RE Committee Meeting, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 19 - Potluck-Service project for junior/senior

I am thankful for the students, parents, GPUC Board, Rev. Alex, congregation, staff members and my family friends. May each one of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving of stories, family, friends and love. Let the holiday season begin. Peace.

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

Auction



**Come to the Beach
Saturday, November 11, 4:00pm**

THIS YEAR'S AUCTION WILL BE ESPECIALLY FUN, whether you bid or not!!!

- * Top-notch beachy entertainment by Miriam Engstrom, Maurya Kay and Shawn Grose.
- * Scrumptious beachy tidbits and plenty of rum punch and beer.
- * Our awesome emcees: Joe Buttiglieri, Matt Whitwell and Laurie Arora are teaming up to lead a summery live auction!

PLEASE BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE! It is extremely important to our accounting system to know who will attend the auction. Let us know the names of your friends who are coming as well!

- * Tickets are \$15 and available on Sundays after service.
- * If you can't attend, please ask someone to bid for you.

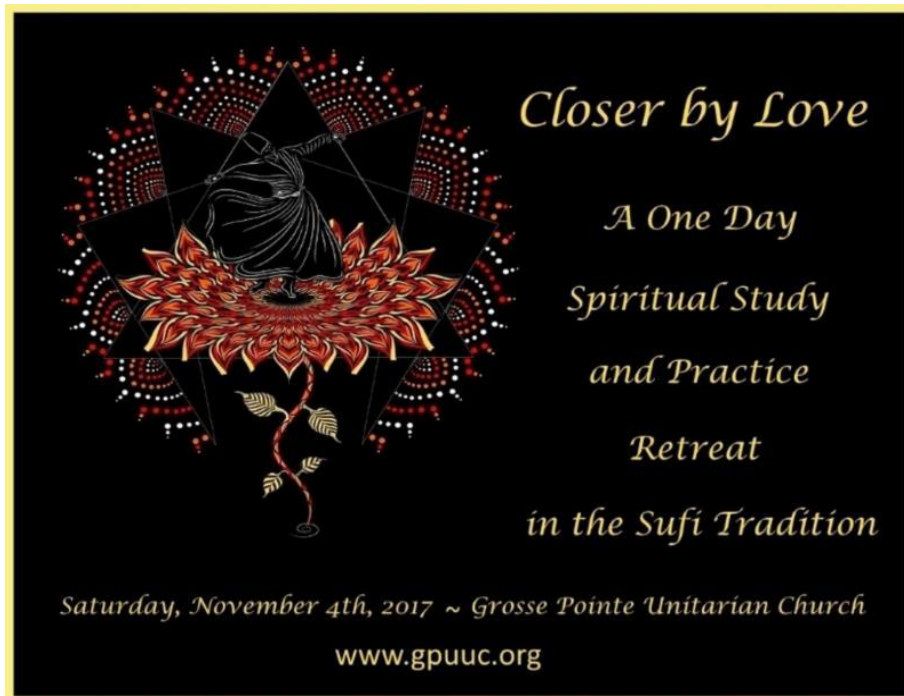
PICK UP YOUR CATALOG AND CHECK OUT THE FABULOUS DONATIONS!

- * More parties and events than ever before, with some new and creative experiences offered.
- * Lots of beautiful objects to choose from, gift baskets and gift certificates.
- * A \$2 Tin Can ticket buys you a chance to win many wonderful items and event seats.
- * You'll surely want to see the offerings by our Juniors.
- * 50-50 RAFFLE: the winner usually receives around \$500.
- * **GET YOUR CATALOG.** They're available at church and have been sent by email.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SETUP ON 11/10 AND 11/11, AND CLEANUP!!!!

Please contact Chrissy Whitwell or Robin Ramsay
We celebrate with you!

Closer by Love Retreat



Saturday, November 4 from 9:00am - 4:00pm

In this retreat we will look at the path of love as the path to God. Specifically, we will discuss Sufi teachings pertaining to the relationship that holds between the capacity for interpersonal love and the capacity for loving the Divine. We will discover that there is a strong connection between the two, as our models of interpersonal love strongly influence the way we think about, as well as experience and approach, the Divine. As part of the spiritual practice segments of this retreat we will also partake in a Sufi song circle and brief silent meditation practices.

Tickets (<http://www.gpuuc.org/upcoming-events.html>): \$30 in advance through this web site (see purchase option below) or through the church office; \$35 at the door. (Lunch not included. Participants are encouraged to dine at local establishments.)

Chamber Music



Chamber Music at the Scarab Club celebrates its 20th season with **Words and Music** at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church on **Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

Dennis Carter - flute, *Lisa Raschiatore* - clarinet, *Mariah Boucher* - piano, *Briana Elyse Hunter* - mezzo soprano, *Mary Siciliano* - piano, *Velda Kelly* - violin, *Nadine Deleury* - cello

This delightful program presents two works strongly influenced by text, either poetry or prose. The Michigan-based trio *Protea* (flute, clarinet and piano) performs Valerie Coleman's dynamic *Portraits of Langston*, based on the poetry of African American writer Langston Hughes and includes readings that describe his experiences in Paris and Harlem. Mezzo soprano Briana Elyse Hunter sings *Letters to the Immortal Beloved* by Canadian composer James Wright consisting of settings of excerpts from Beethoven's passionate letters to his 'Immortal Beloved'.

Church members pay only \$18 for adults, \$10 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information: 248 474-8930 chambermusic@scarabclub.org www.scarabclub.org/chambermusic

Escalating Economic Inequality: Let's Talk!



Join us for a multi-media exploration of the events leading up to and through the 1967 Detroit uprising

Thursday, November 30
Reception 6:30 pm; Program 7:00
Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church,
23925 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield



Hosted by the Escalating Economic Inequality Task Force, a coalition of Unitarian Universalist congregations in Bloomfield Hills, Brighton, Detroit, Farmington, Grosse Pointe, Southfield, and Troy

'67 Detroit: The Myth of the Model City
presented by William Winkel, Detroit Historical Society

'67 Rebellion: A Memory Play
presented by The Extra Mile Playwrights Theatre, followed by a talk-back with playwrights and actors

Tickets: \$10 regular; \$25 sponsor; \$5 student
Complimentary tickets also available

William Winkel is a researcher with the Detroit Historical Society and co-manager of the Detroit '67 Oral History Project. He contributed to the book, *Detroit 1967: Origins, Impacts, and Legacies*. He has conducted extensive fact-finding on this subject and performed dozens of interviews.



The Extra Mile Playwrights Theatre, founded in 2009 by five writers, brings together Detroit-area playwrights, actors, directors and producers dedicated to local theater. Their '67 Rebellion memory play is a staged reading of oral histories of people who witnessed the events of 1967.



Purchase a ticket online via Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/67Detroit or complete and send this form, with payment, to Birmingham Unitarian Church, Attn: 67 Detroit, 38651 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. Write check to **BUC** with **67 Detroit** on memo line.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

CITY, STATE _____ ORGANIZATION _____

EMAIL _____

NBR OF TICKETS Regular Student
 Sponsor Complimentary AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ OR Fee waiver appreciated

Announcements

First Sunday Food Sharing Sunday November 5

Our next opportunity for food sharing will be **Sunday, November 5**. Donations of non-perishables are taken to **Crossroads East**, located in Salem Lutheran Church on Moross. If you prefer to donate monetarily, your contributions are used to purchase eggs, milk, bread, and produce. The staff at Crossroads East is very thankful for our donations. They reported that their clientele is up 78% from last year, and they are very much in need of food donations. Thank you so much for your support!

Yoga Nidra with Jen Norber, RYT - Sunday, November 12 from 1-2pm

Come experience Yoga Nidra- the Art of Conscious Relaxation. This is not an exercise class but a state of consciousness that can bring about healing and allow you to set true intentions for your life. Please bring a pillow and anything you need to relax as the session is done entirely laying down. \$10 cash or check only. Email Jennorber@yahoo.com with questions.

Women's Book Discussion Group - November 15, 5:30, GPUC Library

Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler

This is a modern telling of **The Taming of the Shrew**.

Kate Battista feels stuck. How did she end up running house and home for her eccentric scientist father and uppity, pretty younger sister Bunny? Plus, she's always in trouble at work - her pre-school charges adore her, but their parents don't always appreciate her unusual opinions and forthright manner. Dr. Battista has other problems. After years out in the academic wilderness, he is on the verge of a breakthrough. His research could help millions. There's only one problem: his brilliant young lab assistant,

Pyotr, is about to be deported. And without Pyotr, all would be lost. When Dr. Battista cooks up an outrageous plan that will enable Pyotr to stay in the country, he's relying - as usual - on Kate to help him. Kate is furious: this time he's really asking too much. But will she be able to resist the two men's touchingly ludicrous campaign to bring her around?

Second Annual Thanksgiving Potluck, Sunday, November 19th.

Last year's potluck was such a success that we've decided to do it again; so join us for this service where we will eat, drink and be thankful for our GPUC family.

Sign-up sheets are available. You may choose between main dishes, salads, breads, vegetables, rice, potatoes, pasta, desserts or anything else that you think would be a tasty addition to the feast. This year we would like you to bring your own wine or other spirits of your choice. Coffee, tea and cider will be provided.

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Please consider recognizing or honoring someone dear or commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. Flowers add significantly to the ambiance on Sunday mornings. Please use the insert in the Sunday order of service or contact the church office to sign-up for a Sunday or two.

Let us know if you will bring your own arrangement or provide a check (minimum cost \$20) 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.

Wanted: Tutors who can make a difference

There's a student near you waiting for some extra assistance in reading, math or classroom assignments. Most students blossom with extra individual attention from tutors who care about them. The needs in our schools are great, and teachers are grateful for volunteers from our church who make a difference. Volunteers can choose the day and time to serve as well as the grade level. The rewards are priceless: a sense of accomplishment and a positive, encouraging relationship which results in academic progress for students.

In the next few weeks, the school will hold an orientation for tutors. For further information, contact coordinator Susie Boynton or Candy Dunn in the office.

Care Committee Update

We have secured a small table just outside the sanctuary where you will be able to write a message of cheer to anyone in the congregation. There are note cards and paper, envelopes, pens, etc. A member of the Care Committee will be sure to see that your message is sent.

Linda Lawrence and the Care Committee

UU Crafters- Holiday Schedule

UU Crafters will NOT meet in November and December. I hope everyone enjoys their holidays with friends and family. We will resume our meetings in January on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Annex 7-9pm. All are welcome to join in for an evening of social stitching (knit, crochet, quilting, needlepoint, etc.) and other small crafts. Check the church calendar on the website and the weekly email for any changes. Please contact Ann Helm with any questions.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by Friday, November 17 at noon. They should be sent to newsletter@gpuc.us.

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