

January 2019

Upcoming Services

January 6, 2019

10:30am

Where's Waldo

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel

Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

This Sunday's sermon is the result of a question Dr. Riegel received during one of his recent Question Box sermons, which inquired as to why we don't hear more of Waldo Emerson these days. "True dat!" as they say, so here's a little Waldo for ya! We will explore the thought of Waldo Emerson by way of panel discussion, including Dr. Riegel, Maurya Kay, Jerry Herron, and Miriam Engstrom.

January 13, 2019

10:30am

Did the Devil REALLY Make Flip Do It?

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel

Worship Associate: Tonya Wells

Evolutionary Biology is a powerful theoretical tool for explaining human behavior. As such, the general population ought better to understand it. Toward that end, Prof. Emeritus of Evolutionary Biology from Wayne State University, our own Bill Moore, will join Dr. Riegel in the pulpit to consider the origin and function of morality.

January 20, 2019

10:30am

Frederick Douglass' Transcendent Social Vision

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel

Worship Associate: Joe Buttiglieri

In my "book" W.E.B. Du Bois was one of America's most brilliant sociologists. Because of a recent biography on Frederick Douglass I have been learning a great deal more about him. I am thoroughly impressed with the life and thought of Douglass, who, by all measure, was one of America's great 19th century orators. Join me in exploring Douglass' life and thought on my last Sunday before my Study Break (I will be gone from Jan. 21 - Feb. 17 - returning on the 18th).

January 27, 2019

10:30am

Africa Through American Eyes

Worship Leader: Dr. Peggi Tabor **Worship Associate:** Meghan Boomhower
Peggi spent two years, 2004-2006, living in a remote African village as a US Peace Corps Volunteer. This talk focuses on African village life and culture as well as what the US Peace Corps is doing to help ameliorate the many problems still plaguing this area. We can be very proud that our country has this peaceful and helpful outreach program doing so much good around the world.

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Upcoming Events

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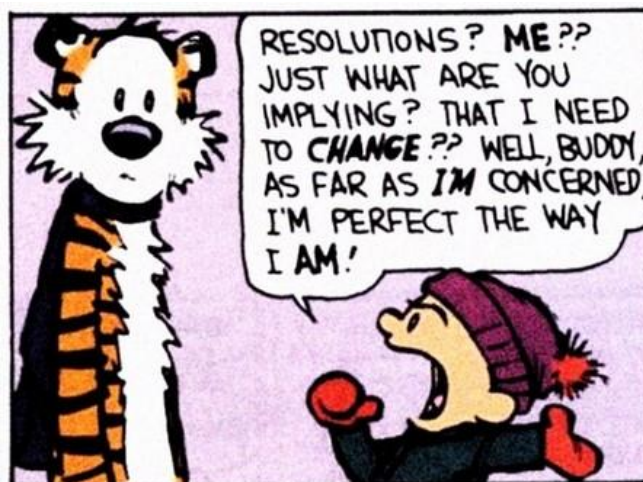
[Jan 16 Wm's Book Discussion](#)

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Alexander's Meander



I'm not real big on New Year's resolutions. Personal transformation is my life's work so I don't like to whittle down that effort to a single day or time of year. At the same time, resolutions can be helpful as we meander our way toward personal growth. With that in mind I suggest the following... by way of story.

Recently I was talking with a parishioner from another congregation (truly, not from GPUC) who was discussing certain elements about that person's congregation that were unsatisfying. (Now, it's important to remember in this story that Unitarian Universalists can be a notoriously hard group of people to please. After all, we don't see eye to eye theologically; we're a pretty bright, competent group of people with varying, strong opinions on singular issues; and, well, we're people;... nuff said?) I listened to the short litany of dissatisfactions this person felt the need to share with me. When this person finished the litany of dissatisfied experiences I said, "That's not a really long list, which leads me to think that you have a longer list of things you enjoy about

your congregation?" This person responded in the affirmative, then went on with the "yea but..." addendum's... I listened further and then finally said, it sounds like your congregation's batting about 80% with you, which got an affirmative response. I went on to explain that if one is 80% satisfied with one's congregation, then one is batting 800, which by both baseball and congregation standards is really good!

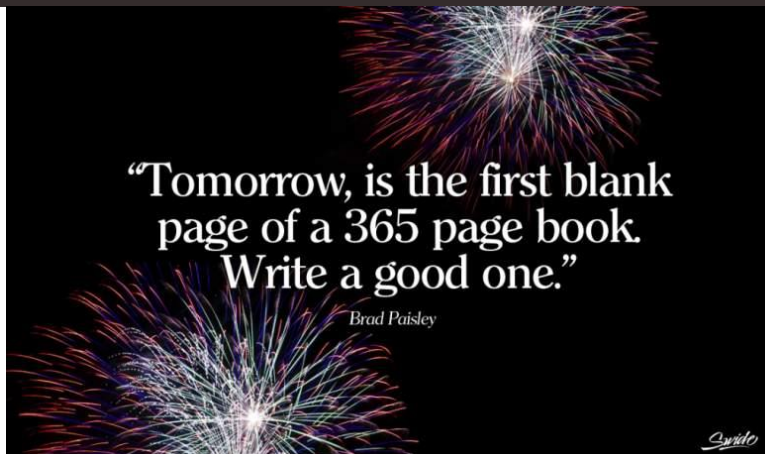
After that conversation I thought a bit further about the matter and began to extrapolate that 80% satisfaction rate to real life. I think in general that if we're 80% satisfied with life then things are really good! Still, many people manage to focus their attention on the 20%, 10%, 5% of life that doesn't satisfy them, concluding that their overall life experience isn't very satisfying. How unfortunate...

Hence, I suggest that for a New Year's resolution you consider the following... Consider that if you are 80% satisfied with anything: your congregation, your spouse, your job, your children... then you've got it really good! Resolve to hang on to that idea this year. Life ain't perfect now. It was never perfect before. And it ain't going to be perfect tomorrow. Learn to see an 80% satisfaction rate as a really good thing and then get on with a little more lilt in your step!

Namaste,

Alex

Religious Education News



It is a beautiful new year, 2019!! This year we have the opportunity to choose happiness, love and to be fully present and have a purpose and passion for life. Listed below are some positive quotes to start 2019 off on a high note.

- With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts. -Eleanor Roosevelt
- And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been .-Rainer Maria Rilke
- Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. -Ralph Waldo Emerson
- You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. -C.S. Lewis
- We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise, we harden. -Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. -T.S. Elliot
- And suddenly you just know: it's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings. -Meister Eckhart
- This is the beginning of anything you want. -Unknown
- What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't happened yet. -Unknown
- Receive all the love you can. -Julie Artis

Religious Education Lessons

The **nursery** will be open at 10 a.m. every Sunday morning. The nursery will also be open at 9:15 a.m. on **OWL** Sundays. 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, Upper and Junior students will continue their lessons on UUism. Also, students that have registered for OWL classes will begin at 9:15 a.m. starting January 13, 2019. If you have questions, please contact me at julie@gpuc.us or call me at 313.590.2464.

Junior and Senior high students will have another fundraiser on Sunday, January 13 right after church. They will be providing a warm lunch. They will also continue their lessons on UUism. Our junior and senior high students are going to Boston to explore our UU roots. They need your help with fundraising. You will be seeing our students serving lunches, having cake sales and collecting bottles and cans. Please chat with our students about their trip and contact me if you would like to know more how you can lend a hand. BOSTON 2019!!!

Dates to remember

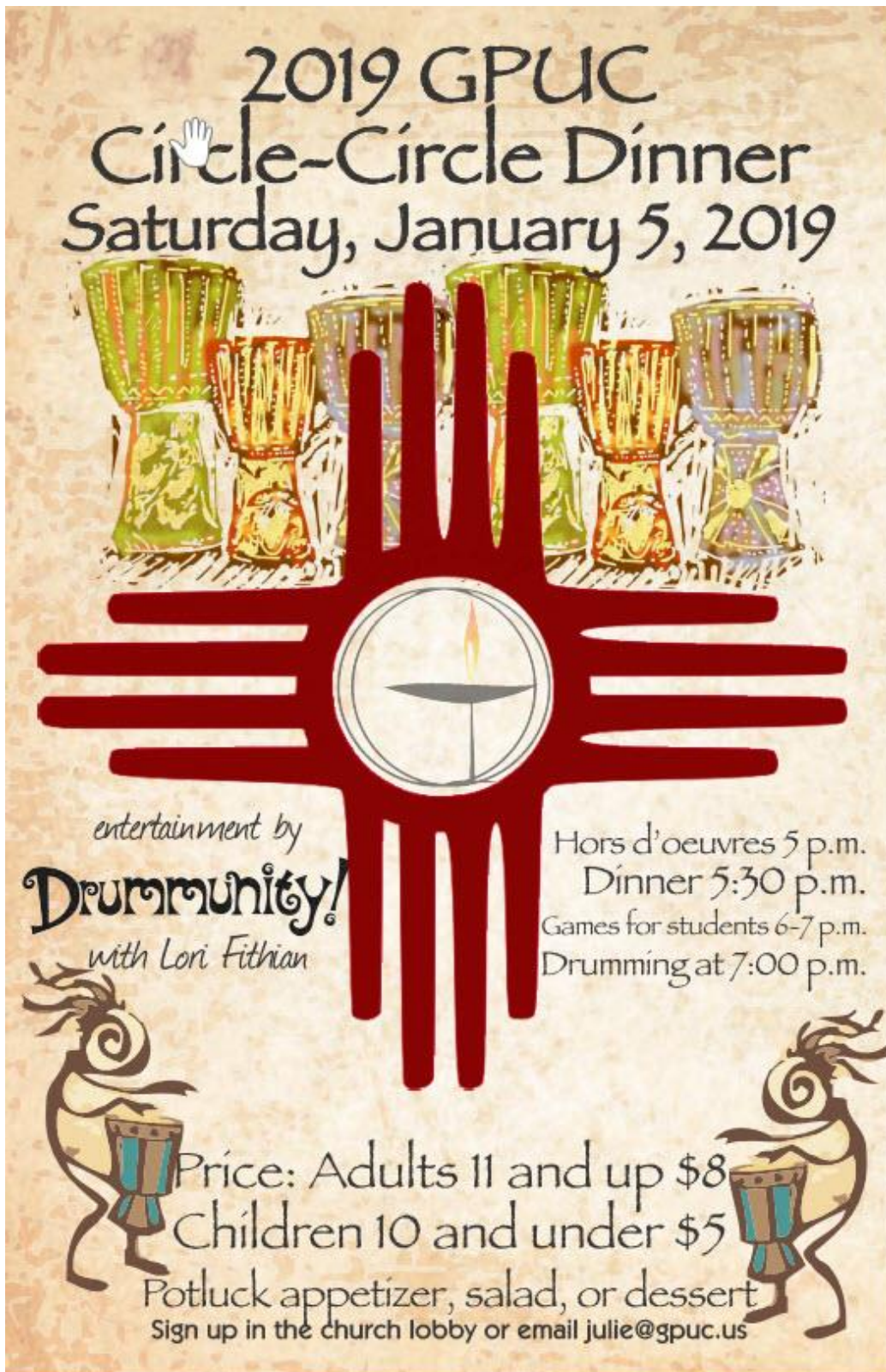
January 5, Saturday -Circle Circle Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

January 6, Sunday-Classes begin

January 13, Sunday-RE Committee Meeting at 9:15 a.m. and OWL classes begin at 9:15 a.m.

Julie Artis

Director of Religious Education



All GPUC Members and Friends are invited to an evening of fun, food and entertainment. It is the Circle Circle Dinner on Saturday, January 5th, 2019. We will start with Hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Our entertainment this year is by DRUMMUNITY!!! Drummunity is at 7:00 p.m. The price is \$8.00 for adults 11 and older and for students 10 and under is \$5.00. Please sign up in the church lobby or email julie@gpuc.us. Pick an appetizer, salad, or dessert to bring. This evening is a family affair and we encourage you to bring friends. Let's ring in the new year with a GPUC Fellowship event. See you all Saturday, January 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Vision Facilities Forum

Vision Facilities Forum January 20

Please plan to stay after service Sunday, January 20. Our consulting architect, John Hill, will join us to present revised concepts for expansion and renovation of GPUC spaces. John will show us detailed drawings of several alternative concepts, including room layouts and square footage. He will also have cost projections for each option. The forum will begin at approximately 11:50 a.m. Plans are in the works for childcare and refreshments. Please see the weekly e-mail and church announcements for updated details.

During February and March (dates to be announced) we will host focus groups to foster further discussion of the concepts. We urge you to attend a focus group and let your voice be heard.

Chris Vadino and Rudy Wedenoja
Co-Chairs

New UU Gatherings

New UU Gatherings on January 13 & 20

If you have been visiting our church and would like to learn more about Unitarianism/Universalism, Dr. Riegel and some of our church staff will be hosting "New UU Gatherings" on January 13th and January 20th right after the Sunday Service in our church library.

January 13th Meeting: Please join us at 12 noon in the church library. This will be a chance to get to know each other and our minister, Dr. Riegel. We will share stories of our spiritual/religious journeys, as well as ask questions we might have.

January 20th Meeting: We will meet in the church library at 12 noon. This will focus on the Religious Education program at GPUC, as well as the opportunities our church offers for members to participate in social justice, community outreach and adult learning opportunities.

We hope you will be able to attend these informative sessions! Please feel free to email or call with any questions. We would appreciate an RSVP to our church office administrator, Candy Dunn, at gpuc@gpuc.us. If you will need child care, let us know, and that can be arranged in advance.

Sonja Franchett, GPUC Newcomers/Membership Chair
and Marsha Zeller

Safety Committee

Safety Committee 2018 Summary -- A year in review

The Safety Committee is finishing its first year of activity at GPUC. In the past year the committee has:

- Updated First Aid kits in the RE Wing, kitchen with trauma packs. The Resale Shop replaced the one in the Annex. Thank you Juli Moore.
- Placed additional signage for locating first aid kits and tornado shelter
- Purchased Fire blankets for the RE Wing, Kitchen and Annex
- Investigated installation of an additional Fire Alarm for the Sanctuary / Lobby area
- Researched installation of an electronic, monitored alarm system for the Sanctuary, RE Wing and Annex.
- Reminder announcements of the Exits in case of an Emergency, and location of Fire Extinguishers. List is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby.

2019 Projects

- Scheduled Basic First Aid, AED, CPR, Trauma Workshop for January 13, 2019
- Updating Usher/Greeter Guidelines
- Hosting an "ALICE" training/surviving an Active Shooter.

As always, members with ideas, questions, concerns or issues they would like the committee to follow up on are encouraged to speak to any of the safety committee members:

Members of this committee include:

Lynn Rehahn	Dr. Alex Riegel
Bill Rehahn	John Engstrom
Sonja Franchett	Karen Valliere
Carol Ghesquiere	Julie Artis

GPUC First Aid Workshop January 13, 2019

Two members from the staff of Beaumont Health will conduct a hands-on presentation that will include:

- * Basic first aid
- * Trauma care/Stop the Bleed
- * CPR
- * AED use

The workshop will be held in Annex after Sunday services January 13, 2019. The presentation will run approximately 90 minutes-2 hours. Lunch will be provided.

Maximum class size is 15 participants. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for those interested in registering.

If there is enough interest, another workshop can be scheduled for Spring, 2019.

Announcements

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MidAmerica Region of the UUA

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2019



"Intersectionalities"

The 2019 MidAmerica Regional Assembly is coming sooner than you think! This year, our RA will be held in **St. Louis, Missouri**, at the Marriott St Louis, **April 5-7, 2019**.

The theme is "Intersectionalities"—how we live, work, and relate, as well as share, withhold, and leverage power in our world. Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody the challenges of social inequality, and tools and skills we need in order to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general "nuts and bolts" of congregational life, such as leadership, stewardship, membership, and religious education. Our Keynote Presenter will be UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray. Join us to explore, share, and worship with fellow Unitarian Universalists.

More information on pricing (early bird discount deadline is Feb., 28, 2019), deadlines and workshops can be found: <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra>

Music News

ADULT CHOIR Thinking of joining? Well, think no more! Come and sing with us. We sing twice a month for service. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Purple Room. First rehearsal of the New Year is Jan. 2.

CHILD CARE is available at that time! Friendly, talented people will greet you. No auditions. Come as you are. It's an elite group with down-to-earth people. Now isn't that appealing?

YOUTH CHOIR-boys and girls K on up-join us! Rehearsals are after Religious Ed class, for 15 minutes. First rehearsal of the year will be Sunday, Jan. 6. Come sing with us-it's fun. I keep getting such great feedback of how much everyone loves the Youth Choir!

WARSAW CONCERTO: 75 Years of Uprising is the title of my upcoming annual solo piano concert, **Saturday, May 11th at 4:00 p.m.** Mark your calendars. This will be an exciting commemoration of the Warsaw Uprising, one of the most important events of WW II. Celebrating its 75th anniversary, you will hear music and stories that will touch your heart. Hope to see you there.

SEE OUR WEBSITE CONTENT: <http://www.gpuuc.org/choir-and-music.html>
<http://www.gpuuc.org/meet-the-staff.html>

Joseph Palazzolo, Music Director

Our next Food Sharing will be SUNDAY JANUARY 6.

With each new month comes a new opportunity to contribute to the food pantry at Crossroads East! Please consider bringing canned, boxed or bagged foods to church with you on that day. Cereals, soups, prepared meals, peanut butter, pasta... any non-perishable foods you would like to donate will be gladly received. Also accepted are toiletry items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, and deodorant. Your contributions are taken to Crossroads East, located in Detroit Cooperative Church on Moross.

Monetary donations are also very gladly accepted! Milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and bread are purchased with the money that you donate. These fresh groceries are delivered to Crossroads East on a (most) weekly basis, and are very much appreciated by the staff and clients.

Care Committee Update

At this special time of year, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the members of the G.P.U.C. Care Committee whose work behind the scenes often goes without recognition or reward. These members include the following:

1. Lynn Baker-Hunter
2. Debbie Connelly
3. Sonja Franchett

4. Karin Garrett
5. Carol Ghesquiere
6. Jo Ann Kelly
7. Mary Morshead
8. Joanne Roth
9. Kathleen Ruhl
10. Joy Spurr
11. Janet Weber

The above people make my job both easy and rewarding! Happy Holidays one and all!

Linda Lawrence, Care Committee Chair

Women's Book Discussion Group

The Women's Book Discussion group meets on the third Wednesday of the month from October to April at 5:30pm in the GPUC Library. Book lists are available on the table in the foyer or by email from the church office (gpuc@gpuc.us). Refreshments are provided; cost is divided among the attendees. We gather in May for a pot-luck dinner and to choose books for the fall. We welcome new participants!

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Book: *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. Discussion Leader: Randi Borys

With this snappy period piece, Towles resurrects the cinematic black-and-white Manhattan of the golden age of screwball comedy, gal-pal camaraderie and romantic mischief...Towles' characters are youthful Americans in tricky times, trying to create authentic lives.

Resale Shop News

The GPUC RESALE SHOP BOUTIQUE SALE got rave reviews from all who attended! Great merchandise, eager shoppers and excited staff made for a Very successful event. Thank you to all who helped and all who bought! If you missed the fun, there are still many quality items available from the sale in the Resale Shop.

Happy New Year!

UU Crafters

UU Crafters have decided not to continue with their monthly meetings in 2019. Please contact Ann Helm with any questions.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by **Friday, January 18 at noon.**

Submit items to **The new newsletter email address:** newslettergpuc@gmail.com

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