

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 2019

Upcoming Services

May 5, 2019

10:30 AM

Why Do Birds Have Hollow Bones?

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel
Worship Associate: Suzanne Ross

At our Annual Meeting on May 19 we will be voting on the Board's proposed Bylaw revisions that you have (hopefully) seen distributed and discussed over the course of the last couple of months. In this sermon Dr. Riegel is going to discuss the context for this Bylaw revision proposal. The service will be somewhat shortened in order to give us time to discuss these proposed Bylaw revisions as well. We hope you will make every effort to attend and familiarize yourself with this proposal (if you haven't already), with the hopes that conversation on this point will be minimal at our May 19 Annual Meeting.

May 12, 2019

10:30 AM

Martha's Labor

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel
Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer

Within the Christian tradition there is an ongoing *subtextual* debate about who loved the Savior (Jesus) best, Martha or Mary? This is a fascinating debate because it gets to the question of which is better, work or devotion, as the expression of one's spiritual life. We will not resolve this debate this morning, rather, we will twist away from it by using Martha as a personification of women's experience per se. Indeed, Martha, more than Mary, embodies women's experience and in doing so personifies the image of the quiet female hero.

May 19, 2019

10:30 AM

The Number of the Beast: What Is the Book of Revelation Really All About?

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel
Worship Associate: Joe Buttiglieri

The Book of Revelation is one of the oddest and most confusing books in the world's sacred literature. In our modern times it is used as a conservative Christian conversion tool and strongly influences politicians on the far right (for instance, the right's infatuation with the state of Israel). Why is this so? And, what is the book really all about?

**May 26,
2019**

10:30 AM

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Upcoming Events

[Sat May 4 Stilling the
Mind Wrkshp](#)

[Sat May 11 Warsaw
Concerto](#)

[Sun May 12 Food
Sharing](#)

[Sat May 25 Retreat](#)

[Sun Jun 2 Ice Cream
Social](#)

[Sun Jun 2 Vaccination
Seminar](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

TBD
Worship Leader: TBD
Worship Associate: TBD

Alexander's Meander



From *The Healing Moment*, by Elizabeth Tarbox

Each day I am newly reminded of my unworthiness - a dozen thoughts misspoken; another day when the good I do falls short of the good that I could do; myriad small interchanges; moments of sharing that strain to the breaking point my desire to be generous, helpful, and kind; months of careful work lost by a moment's impatience, a careless word.

But when I am here at the edge of creation, breaking with the small tide over the sand, the need to do good rolls away; the question of what is right diminishes to insignificance and is easily borne away by the tiny waves. Here, where no words are spoken, none are misspoken.

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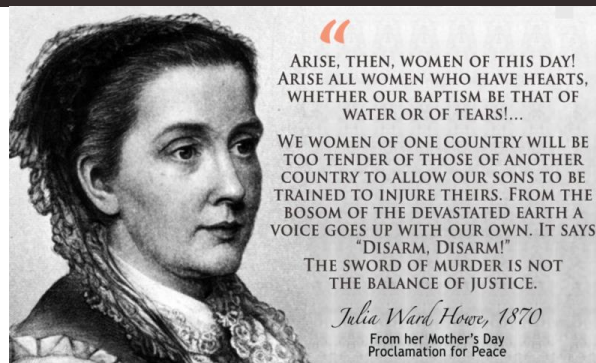
The above portion of a poem is from a now deceased colleague I knew in Massachusetts. Her memory arose for me when I recently felt the desire to spend some time again in Provincetown, Massachusetts, where I have spent many a long, silent, salient hours ankle-deep in the waves - my toes sinking into that sacred sand.

Those were healing moments... times of respite from the struggle and strife with which life presents us all, or, with which we present life. It's a chicken and egg kind of thing... Either way, I share this with you to remind you that in the midst of your own struggle and strife, it's important to give yourself those healing moments.

As Spring breaks upon us and summer begins to tempt us, I hope you will take the time for your own healing moments. Walk ankle-deep in the waves with your toes sinking into the sand. Grab the hand of one you love and walk through the woods. Sit silently in your backyard and watch the hummingbird feed. Nuzzle the nose of that beloved dog. Crawl on your roof and gaze at the stars... These are healing moments because in the end, we all know that these are the moments that life is about, truly. These are the soulful moments that make a soul full...

Namaste,
Alex

Religious Education News



It's hard to believe that our church school year is winding down so quickly! This year we have been studying the **Unitarian Universalist** curriculum for the Lower through Senior High grades. Sunday, **June 2**, 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. Mark your calendars for this exciting end of the year Religious Education Service. We will also be serving our famous **UU 7 Principles Ice Cream Sundaes**.

Sunday, **May 12** 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.

**7 Principles of Peace:
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 Unitarian Universalism. They will also make a Mother's Day gift on May 12.

Junior and Senior High

students will finish up their lessons on the Unitarian Universalism. The parents and students continue to raise funds for their Boston trip in June 2019.

Dates to remember:

May 5-RE Committee Meeting at 9:15 a.m.

May 12-Mother's Day

June 2-RE Sunday

Julie Artis

Religious Education Director

Notice of Annual Meeting

DATE: April 26, 2019

TO: All members of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

FROM: Paul Rowady, Secretary, GPUC Board of Trustees

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Congregational Meeting of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church will take place on Sunday, May 19, 2019, immediately following the service.

We invite you to attend the annual meeting to:

- **Vote on amended By-laws,**
- **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, GPUC Board of Trustees

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING

ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, May 19, 2019

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 2019-2020, vote on new proposed By-Laws, vote for Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, and Leadership Development Committees, vote on needed roof repairs and on other business brought before the congregation. 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.

Musical Notes

WARSAW CONCERTO: 75 Years of Uprising!

Did you know that after WWI, the residents of Warsaw went nuts for the tango? And that a Jewish composer from Warsaw by the name of Weinberg ended up becoming best friends with the great Russian composer Shostakovich, giving him inspiration?

Come hear not only fascinating stories but terrific music from this little-known period of history of this great city. You'll even hear a world-class violinist who has appeared on "America's Got Talent!"

Topping off the afternoon will be a performance of a rarely-heard solo-piano arrangement of the popular Warsaw Concerto.

Saturday, May 11 at 4:00 p.m. In the Sanctuary.

\$20 Presale \$25 At the Door

Tickets are being sold after Sunday service in the foyer or from the Church Office
9am-3pm Monday through Friday, 313-881-0420

To buy tickets online, visit our website:

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



**WARSAW
CONCERTO**

75 Years

2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising. Come hear in story and music the joys and sorrows of a great people who dared to stand up for freedom. Music of Chopin, Paderewski, St Saens, Mendelssohn, rediscovered music of Weinberg, Polkas, Klezmer music and The Warsaw Concerto.

**Joseph Palazzolo, Piano
with Sonia Lee, Violin**

**May 11th
4:00 p.m.**

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

Tickets: \$20 Presale • \$25 At The Door

For more information, please visit
www.gpuuc.org what we do>upcoming events or call
313-881-0420

Net proceeds will benefit GPUUC



*Memorial Day Weekend Retreat
w/Revs. Alexander and Kimi Riegel*

The focus of this retreat will be devotion and personal practice, meaning that we will spend our mornings and evenings in group devotion/spiritual practice. At the same time, there will be plenty of grist for your mental mill, as I will be giving lectures and facilitating group work with material pertinent to our theme. We will also spend time doing group and dyad work with spiritual texts. Finally, for those of you who wish, we will set aside an hour a day for a focused study of mantra (beginners included).

The cost of the retreat is \$300. This includes three nights lodging (everyone gets their own room, save couples that wish to share) and nine meals.

*NOTE - We are limiting attendance to 20 people. This has been our approximate attendance in the past but in this instance Kimi and I are both going to open up this opportunity to members of our churches, so don't hesitate to register!

To reserve your spot, please send a nonrefundable \$100 deposit to me at: 786 Harcourt Rd., Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, 48230. There is no deadline for sending in your deposit but spaces will be reserved on a first-come first-serve basis.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: alexriegel@post.harvard.edu

Namaste!

Alex

Stilling The Mind Workshop

Safety Committee



STOP
THE BLEED

**Lifesaving training is
for everyone**

GPUC First Aid Workshop
June 23, 2019
in the Annex after services

Members from the staff of Beaumont Health
will conduct a hands-on presentation that will cover:

- Basic First Aid
- Trauma care/Stop the Bleed
- CPR
- AED Use

**The presentation will run approximately 90 minutes-to-two hours.
Lunch will be provided.**

Maximum class size is 15 participants.

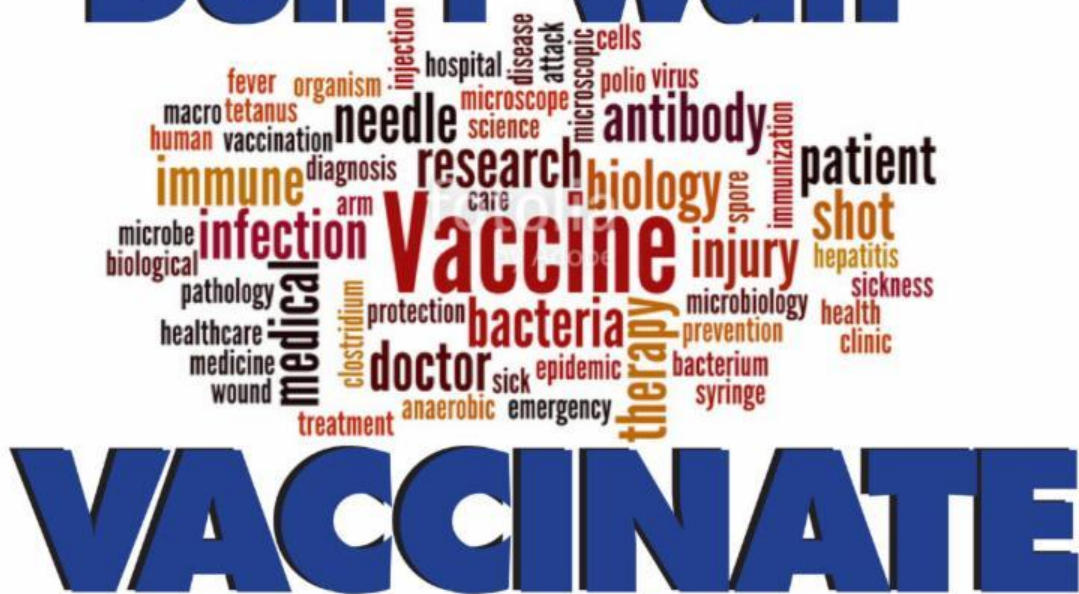
There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby for those interested in participating.



Get trained. Save a life. You'll be glad you did.

Presented by the GPUC Safety Committee

Don't Wait



VACCINATE

Sunday, June 2, 2019

12:15pm

Polio: The Development of a Vaccine

Dr. William Brusilow

**Professor of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology
Wayne State University School of Medicine**

Dr. William Brusilow will describe the numerous steps taken to develop a vaccine, as well as the creation and administration of the fund-raising advocacy group that funded most of the research and development, the March of Dimes. He will also discuss the theories of why polio, a rare disease until the 1900's, became a public health concern. The study of polio — how many strains of virus existed, how it infected, and how was spread — and the development of effective vaccines took over 50 years, culminating in the production of two vaccines, the Salk and Sabin vaccine. Thanks to these two vaccines, polio has been eradicated in the U.S. and, according to recent statistics, the rest of the world as well.

**Grosse Pointe
Unitarian Church**
17150 Maumee Ave.
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
for more information, please call
313-881-0420

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee is finalizing its projects for the coming year. As of now, we are working on coordinating a film and book series on racism with our local branch of the NAACP and GPUC Adult Ed. The series is expected to kick off in September 2019.

Suzanne Ross

Resale Shop Update

The GPUC RESALE SHOP welcomes Nicki Anderson as a Thursday night volunteer and welcomes back Birdi Hansen-Marr. The EBay crew is so happy to have Kathleen Ruhl helping with our on-line efforts on Wednesdays. Thank you to all of our volunteers who make our shop so successful!

Fellowship Committee News

The annual picnic will be held June 9th right after church. It's also Flower Communion Sunday. We provide the hot dogs, buns, lemonade, coffee and tea. And, if you remember our Chief Chef, Jeff made fabulous French Fries. Please feel free to bring wine or beer.

We ask that you bring a dish to pass which could be anything from salads, potato, pasta or rice dishes, and desserts...along with your flower.

The Women's Book Discussion Group

We will be having a potluck gathering at the home of Anne Roberts. We will choose our books for next year and decide on the format now that Jill Crane is moving to Harbor Springs. Date and time to be announced soon.

OUR NEXT FOOD SHARING SUNDAY AT GPUC WILL BE MAY 12

Our recipient, Crossroads East, located in Detroit Cooperative Church on Moross and Chester, offers social services, employment assistance, a clothing closet, food pantry, and more. Each month, GPUC collects **non-perishable foods** to help keep their pantry stocked. We also collect **money** to purchase milk, eggs, bread, fruits and vegetables. These items are bought and delivered several times a month, so the Crossroads staff has fresh items to offer their clients, in addition to canned and boxed foods.

Please consider bringing a donation for Crossroads East to church on May 12.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, June 19 through Sunday, June 23 in Spokane, WA

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

The Power of We: What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

[Register HERE for General Assembly](#)

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by **Friday, May 24 at noon.**

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

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