

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 2019

Upcoming Services

October 6, 2019
10:30 am

Sermon: *Human Being 101: Growing Up, Waking Up, Showing Up*

Worship Leader: Maurya Kay
Worship Associate: Suzanne Ross

Do we sometimes sense that the "culture war" not only rages externally through political, religious, and social discourse, but also rumbles in our interiors? Integral Theory is a school of philosophy that seeks to integrate all of human wisdom into a new, emergent worldview that is able to accommodate the gifts of all previous worldviews, including those that have historically been at odds: science and religion, eastern and western schools of thought, and pre-modern, modern and postmodern worldviews. The Integral approach offers powerful tools for understanding, improving, and engaging with Self, Other, and World.

October 13, 2019
10:30 am

Sermon: *Think Tank Sunday: Unconditional Love vs. Evolution Biases*

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel
Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

In general terms, the German theologian Ludwig Feuerbach defined "species-consciousness" as the ability to conceive of oneself not only as an individual but also as a member of a species. In this, our first "Think Tank Sunday," our panel (Dr. Riegel, Amanda Batts, Bill Moore, and Tonya Wells) will explore the tensions inherent between "species-consciousness," evolution, and agape (unconditional love).

October 20, 2019
10:30 am

Sermon: *Religion in the Public Square*

Worship Leader: Rev. Kimi Riegel
Worship Associate: Joe Buttiglieri

Why are religious liberals so afraid to speak out? Did you know there are just as many liberal religious people as conservatives? What keeps liberals from the spotlight?

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Upcoming Events

[Sat Oct 5 Jewelry Sale](#)
[Sun Oct 6 RE Committee](#)
[Thurs Oct 10 Tutor Lunch](#)
[Mon Oct 14 Near Death Experience Workshop](#)
[Tue Oct 15 Book Discussion](#)
[Sat Oct 19 Dueling Pianos Concert](#)
[Sun Oct 20 New UU Gathering](#)
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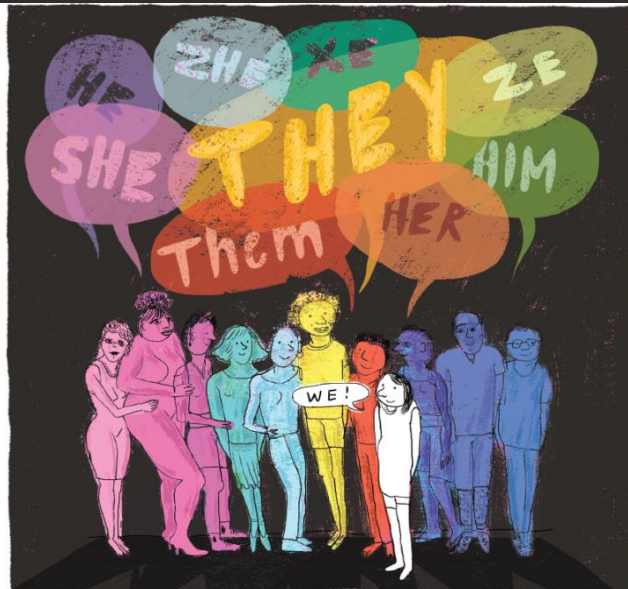
October 27, 2019
10:30 am

Sermon: *Maybe the Devil Deserves a Little Sympathy After All*

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel
Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

In Christian theology Satan is God's Nemesis and so is duly punished. In the Islamic world Satan is *overly dedicated* to God and so is duly punished. How do these notions of Satan compare and contrast and might the way we think of evil in the world change if we had a different notion of Satan/evil?

Alexander's Meander



Strip away the theology, the philosophy - and yes, even the mysticism ;-) - and down to what does our Unitarian Universalist faith boil? Answer: a sense of belonging. Indeed, a sense of belonging is inherent in our first principle: the inherent worth and dignity of every person. This means that no matter who you are; regardless of race, gender identification, socioeconomic status, ability, age... you belong!

Over the decades Unitarian Universalists have always been among the first to respond to revolutions of marginalized groups in our society, e.g., African Americans, women, and the LGBTQ community. Still, all of these groups continue to struggle for the recognition of their inherent worth and dignity. African Americans continue to suffer institutional racism and stereotyping. Women continue to suffer the ever present threat to their right of reproductive choice and the glass ceiling. And, the LGBTQ community continues to suffer at the hands of those who claim religious belief as a basis for discrimination (e.g., "I don't have to make a wedding cake for that gay couple because homosexuality is against my religion.").

As the struggles these groups face continue and as our Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to continuous vigilance on behalf of these groups, it is important that we continue to send the message that all people have a place among us. One of the ways we do this is by occasionally taking stock of ourselves and making sure we are actively and visibly sending the message that "You belong!" It is important not to fall asleep at the wheel...

Toward that end, you will soon notice that members of our community will be showing their support for nonbinary individuals (those who feel that their sexual identity does not conform to traditional male/female labels, e.g., members of the transsexual community, though not exclusively) by adopting the practice of self-determining preferred pronouns on their name tags and other places.

Hence, you may soon see individuals who have the word "they" on a name tag, meaning that rather than referring to that person as "him" or "her," you should refer to that person as "they." (Other people may introduce other preferred pronouns with which you are not familiar.) It is important that we honor whatever choice an individual makes and strive to remember that one of the ways that we honor an individual's inherent worth and dignity is by honoring the way they choose to be identified.

Some people struggle with understanding this emerging practice of self-determining preferred pronoun choice and you yourself may be uncomfortable with it at first. If so, that is okay (It takes time to adjust to new information and create new habits.). And if so, I encourage you to seek out myself, our Director of Religious Education Julie Artis, or anyone else with whom you would like to have further conversation about this topic. Above all, I encourage you to adapt to this emerging practice and join our community is

sending the message - "You belong!"

Namaste,
Alex

Religious Education News



*"In this world without quiet corners, there can be no easy escapes...from hullabaloo, from terrible, unquiet fuss."
-Salman Rushdie*

The church school is in full swing. We are empowering our young UU's in our classes to care and to act in our community and our world by teaching our Seven Principles and living them. We encourage you to attend church and have that one hour a week of an escape from the hullabaloo of your busy week and allow your child/children to do the same in their RE classes. Below are some ideas to share with your family during the week.

*Carve out an hour a day for solitude *Cultivate gratitude *Begin & end the day with meditation, reflection
*Keep It simple *Don't overschedule *Create quiet surroundings at home and at work *Breathe-deeply and often *Set aside Sunday to attend church * Savor beauty *Set achievable goals each day *Care for your soul *Approach problems as challenges *Honor your aspirations *Don't answer the telephone during dinner *Laugh more often *Nurture friendships *Remember, happiness is a living emotion
*Cherish your dreams *Express love every day

Religious Education Lessons

All classes are studying Abrahamic Faiths for this church year. The classes set and developed their class rules and the stage on how they will treat each other during the year.

The GPUC nursery will be open at 10:00 am every week for our young UU's. Remember there is always a pot of coffee at 10:00 am if you want to come to the RE wing and chat with other parents.



One of the ways we encourage caring at GPUC/RE is through a collection of funds at Halloween. We ask each child to come in their Halloween costume the Sunday before Halloween. This year we are collecting for **Make-a-Wish-Michigan**. We ask the congregation to bring in coins and paper money to insert into the **Make-a-Wish** bags on Sunday, October 27. We all need to inspire giving and the spirit of giving. This program's mission is to grant a wish to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Please be part of this journey on October 27!

Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 6 - RE Committee Meeting at 9:15 am

Sunday, October 27 - Trick or Treat for **Make-a-Wish-Michigan**

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



The Other Side

A Three Session Course On:

Near Death Experience

After-life Communication

Reincarnation

Monday Evenings @ 7pm

October 14th

November 4th

December 2nd

[There is no admission fee for this class.]

Are you interested in the phenomenon of **near death experience**? Do you wonder whether **after-life communication** is possible? Have you intuited that **reincarnation** might be true after all? If these topics interest you (skeptics welcome!), join **Dr. Riegel** and **Linda Lawrence** for their class: ***The Other Side***.

Registration required at alexgpuc@gmail.com or through the church office: 313-881-0420

Students Improve Through Tutoring

The Schools Tutoring Committee needs a few more tutors for students at Detroit Merit Academy on Alter and Jefferson. Most tutors volunteer once a week for an hour and a half in reading or in math at a day and time that is worked out between the tutor and the teacher. The children benefit from the extra attention and practice, and the tutor receives the reward of knowing that he or she has made a difference for another human being. A lunch for tutors and prospective tutors will be held at **The Village Grill on Thursday, October 10 at 11:30 am** to meet the principal Sandra Martin and ask questions. For further information, please contact Susie Boynton.

Musical Notes

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE
Anne Roberts and Joseph Palazzolo on 2 Grand Pianos!

For the **THIRD** year in a row, it's **DUELING PIANOS** at GPUC. An annual event started in 2017 by Anne Roberts, Joseph will play GPUC's Yamaha Grand while Anne plays her *shipped-in-special-for-the-show* Kawai Grand.

By popular demand the duo will reprise the jazzy *Suite for Two Pianos* by Richard Rodney Bennett, along with new tunes: a Sonata by Mozart which sounds like a Symphony, some gorgeous Rachmaninoff, some Leroy Anderson, and a little *Tea for Two*.

Saturday, October 19 at 4:00 pm in GPUC's Sanctuary
\$20 Presale \$25 At the Door

Tickets on sale Sundays after the worship service, weekdays during office hours, and online at <http://www.gpuuc.org/josephs-performances.html>

Announcements

Resale Shop *JEWELRY SALE!* Saturday, October 5th from 10am-3pm in the Annex
Jewelry of all kinds, refreshments and the Resale Shop will be open for business!
Come and join the Fun!

Sunday October 13 is Our Next Food Sharing Opportunity

On the second Sunday of each month, **food pantry and bathroom staples** are collected at GPUC. The donations are delivered to Crossroads East, a local social services agency located inside Love Rising Lutheran Church on Moross in Detroit. If you prefer to donate monetarily, your donations are used to purchase perishables such as milk, eggs, bread, potatoes, and fruit. These perishable items are purchased and delivered several times a month to help keep the fridge stocked. Our donations are always gratefully received! Thank you for continuing to help folks in our community who could use a hand!

Book Discussion Group News

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 15** in the church library at 5:30 pm. Juli Moore will lead the discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's novel "Unsheltered". Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome! Please let me know if you are able to attend. Thank you.

Juli Moore (jdmoore1415@gmail.com)

New UU Gatherings

If you have been visiting our church and would like to learn more about Unitarianism and Universalism, Dr. Riegel and some of our church staff will be hosting "New UU Gatherings" on **October 20th & 27th at 12:00 noon**, after the Sunday Service **in our church library**.

These meetings will give you a chance to meet with Dr. Alex Riegel, our minister, and to share stories of our spiritual/religious journeys, as well as ask questions you might have. We will focus on the Religious Education program at GPUC, as well as the opportunities our church offers for members to participate in social justice, fellowship, 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 by October 18th to our church office administrator, Candy Dunn, at gpuc@gpuc.us. If you need childcare, let us know**, and that can be arranged in advance.

Sonja Franchett, GPUC Newcomers/Membership Chair and Marsha Zeller, Membership Co-Chair

Save the Date! Getting to Know UU Dinner - Saturday, November 9th

The Alliance and The Fellowship Committee invite you to an evening of food, fellowship and an opportunity for newer church members and friends to get to know veteran GPUCers. The evening will begin with wine and appetizers at 6 pm in the Annex and continue with dinner and dessert. There will be no charge for the event; seating will be limited. We'll begin taking reservations on October 27th.

Newsletter Deadline

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

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

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