

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

February 2020

Upcoming Services

February 2, 2020

Sermon: *"Reparations for African-Americans: It's About More Than Slavery."*

Worship Leader: Chuck Palmer
Worship Associate: Tonya Wells

Emerge from your burrows on Groundhog Day and see the light at GPUC! In honor of Black History month, Chuck will make the case for reparations to African Americans. 250 years of slavery and 100 years of legal discrimination have left our country with a continuing legacy of white supremacy and racial discrimination. Understanding our history should lead us to support a wide range of remedies for the wrongs of the past and present.

February 9, 2020

Sermon: *"This and Greater Things."*

Worship Leader: Maureen Muldoon
Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

"People will do anything, no matter how absurd, in order to avoid facing their own souls. One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious." -- Carl Jung, Psychology and Alchemy

Good intentions are not our concern, good demonstrations are not our concern, our concern is consciousness. If we learn to work with the soil, the optimal will of God will spring into form without labor.

February 16, 2020

Sermon: *"Civility, Free Speech, and the Limits of Tolerance."*

Worship Leader: John Corvino
Worship Associate: Suzanne Ross

There's much to be said in favor of niceness and of taking a "big tent" approach toward those with whom we differ. At the same time, the canard that "all are welcome" obscures the fact that shunning and shaming are sometimes merited: To take an extreme example, an unrepentant Nazi neither is nor should be welcome. Where should we draw the line, and why?

Bio: *John Corvino, Ph.D. is Professor of Philosophy and Dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College at Wayne State University. For the past 25+ years, he has lectured at over 250 campuses around the globe on culture-war issues of sexuality, ethics, marriage, and religious liberty. Read more at www.johncorvino.com*

February 23, 2020

Sermon: *"Take Me to Church."*

Worship Leader: Mitra Rahnema
Worship Associate: Joseph Buttiglieri

Community, exploration, redemption, forgiveness, exchange, justice - what the heck is church for? Let's talk about it.

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Photo by Andrew Neel on Unsplash

Following Dr. Riegel During His Sabbatical

While away on Sabbatical, Dr. Riegel will be writing blog posts on a more regular basis, as well as developing video synopsis of some of his sermons for our own GPUC website and other video content for his own YouTube site (He might even offer a webinar in which you can participate, if the "spirit" moves him.). That is, he will be producing material that you can follow in his absence. If you are interested in being apprised of this material as it becomes available, you must sign up for his personal email distribution list. To do that, please send him an email (alexriegel@post.harvard.edu) with "Distribution List Sign Up" in the subject line.

Along these lines, Dr. Riegel will seriously be curtailing his personal Facebook presence - you may already have noticed that he is less active these last few months. However, he plans to be more active on his No Mud - No Lotus Facebook page. If you would like to continue to follow his work there, you can also "Like" AND "Follow" that page (Following the page is more important from the point of view of making sure Facebook alerts you to content posted there.). To do so, simply go to this link:

https://www.facebook.com/Alexander-Riegel-No-Mud-No-Lotus-1606544326135165/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Once there, you can "Like" AND "Follow" this page by clicking the appropriate tabs underneath the header image.

Note - If you sign up for Dr. Riegel's personal email distribution list, you should check your spam filter from time to time to make sure that correspondence is not going into your spam file. Gmail users should periodically check the "Promotions" and "Social" tabs. Many people do not realize that email servers often filter out "suspicious" email on your behalf, thereby confusing distribution list emails intended for you as spam.

Namaste,

Alex

Religious Education News



February arrives cold, gray and snowy. We need to be gentle with our path and ponder what we made as our "New Year resolutions". I tend to think of people that I love because of Valentine's Day - but then I rethink my resolutions and I start thinking seriously about what I am going to accomplish during the year. So, these are a few of my questions to myself for the Love month of February:

- **Who is the ONE PERSON I would most like to help or develop this year?**

- Who is the **ONE PERSON** I would most like to learn from this year?
- If I could only do **ONE BIG THING** this year, what would it be?
- Where is the **ONE PLACE** I would most like to go this year?
- What is the **ONE ROADBLOCK** holding me back this year?
- What **ONE THING** could I do to remove that roadblock?
- What is the **ONE THING** I do best?
- What is the **ONE NEED** I feel most deeply burdened by and uniquely qualified to meet?
- What is the **ONE TRUTH** I would most like to share with people this year?
- What is the **ONE HABIT** I would most like to stop this year?
- What is the **ONE HABIT** I would most like to start this year?
- In what **ONE AREA** of my life I would most like to grow this year?

So, over the next couple of weeks, spend some time with your family to think about these questions. You may want to sit down over coffee with some GPUC friends and discuss some of these questions. This is a wonderful way to love yourself and then love others.

Religious Education Lessons

The **nursery** will be open at 10 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, Upper and Junior students are continuing their lessons on Abrahamic Faiths-Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The Juniors will be starting their Church Pal program. The Junior OWL classes have started with Kathy and Andy Konwiak. If you need more information, please call 313-680-4546.

Senior High students meet at Erica Phardel's home. Please call her for the senior high schedule at 313-433-2644. The Junior and Senior high students will be attending the performance of Jesus Christ Superstar on Sunday, **February 9th at 2 p.m.** at the Detroit Opera House.

Date to Remember

February 9th - RE Committee meeting at 9:15 a.m. in Room 7 of the RE wing.

*"Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in this life has a purpose."
-- Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*

Happy Valentine's Day
Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

Fellowship News

SAVE THE DATE!

We will celebrate the
Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)
with a luncheon after church service on
February 2nd in the Annex.
All are invited, no reservations necessary,
and there is no charge!

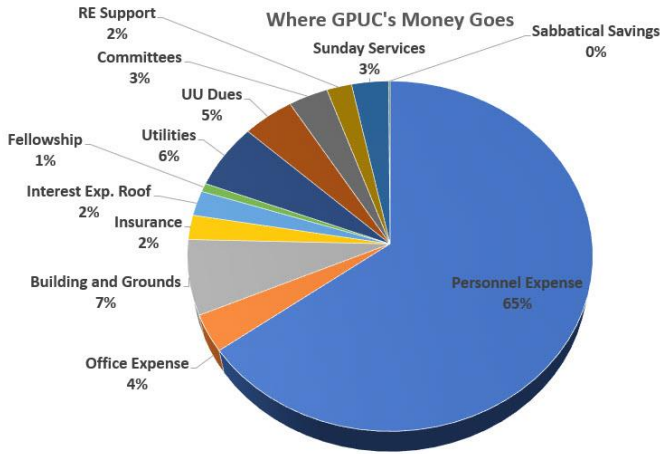


A Message From Your Canvass Committee

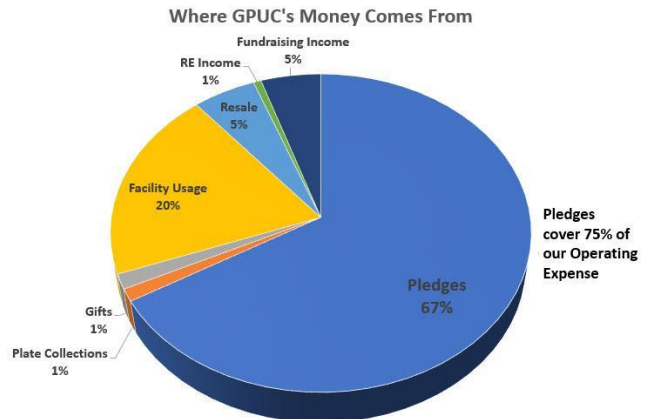
What We Do, Depends on You

This month kicks off the 2020 Pledge Drive. This year's theme is *"What We Do, Depends on You"*. Mark your calendar for the **Fellowship Dinner on Saturday March 7, 2020**. Great fellowship, food, entertainment and giving. Leading up to the Fellowship Dinner we will be helping you understand where our money comes from and where it goes. More importantly we will be telling you what more we can do!

In this first installment we are answering where the money comes from and where it goes.



The GPUC Operating Budget is \$350,000



GPUC's Total Income is \$395,164

Pledges cover 75% of our Operating Expense

Announcements

PFLAGGP invites you to a pre-Valentine's celebration of story, community, wonder + love.



AUTHOR, ACTIVIST + ACTRESS MAUREEN MULDOON CHRONICLES THE DAY SHE DISCOVERS HER CHILD IS TRANSGENDER IN HER HEARTFELT, TOUCHING, + HUMOROUS ONE WOMAN PLAY.

Friday, February 7th

Doors open at 6:30/Show starts at 7:30

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

17150 Maumee Avenue

Grosse Pointe 48230

Tickets \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door

Tickets: www.trans-parentlove.eventbrite.com



PFLAG is the largest organization for the support of LGBTQ+ people, their parents and families, and allies.
Contact PFLAG Grosse Pointe: PFLAGGP@gmail.com. facebook.com/PFLAGGP

Tickets available for advance purchase at GPUC in the foyer on Sundays during coffee hour.

Next Food Sharing Sunday, February 9th! Please consider bringing a can or box of non-perishable food to church with you. We also gladly receive cash or check donations to purchase milk, eggs, bread, and produce. GPUC takes your donations to Crossroads East on Moross in Detroit. Many thanks for your continued support of this local resource!



The newly formed **GPUUC PR Committee** is seeking out volunteer members to assist in the very important mission of coordinating the congregation's messaging and branding to the broader southeast Michigan community. Please contact Giuseppe Filippone via email g.a.filippone@gmail.com in order to get more information about how to be a part of our team.

List of Sabbatical Speakers for 2020

Sabbatical Speakers		
Date	Worship Leader	Description
2/2/2020	Chuck Palmer	Congregant
2/9/2020	Maureen Muldoon	Actress, Storyteller & Spiritual Vixen
2/16/2020	John Corvino	Dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College and Professor of Philosophy at Wayne State University
2/23/2020	Mitra Rahnema	UU Minister, former interim minister at GPUC
3/1/2020	Masha Zeller	Congregant
3/8/2020	Dawud Walid	Prayer leader, lecturer & author on the Islamic faith and social justice activism.
3/15/2020	Mitra Rahnema	UU Minister, former interim minister at GPUC
3/22/2020	Jerry Herron	Congregant
3/29/2020	Tonya Wells	Congregant
4/5/2020	Judith Levy	United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan
4/12/2020	Mitra Rahnema	UU Minister, former interim minister at GPUC
4/19/2020	Mary Ann Perrone	Social Justice Activist
4/26/2020	Bill Moore	Congregant

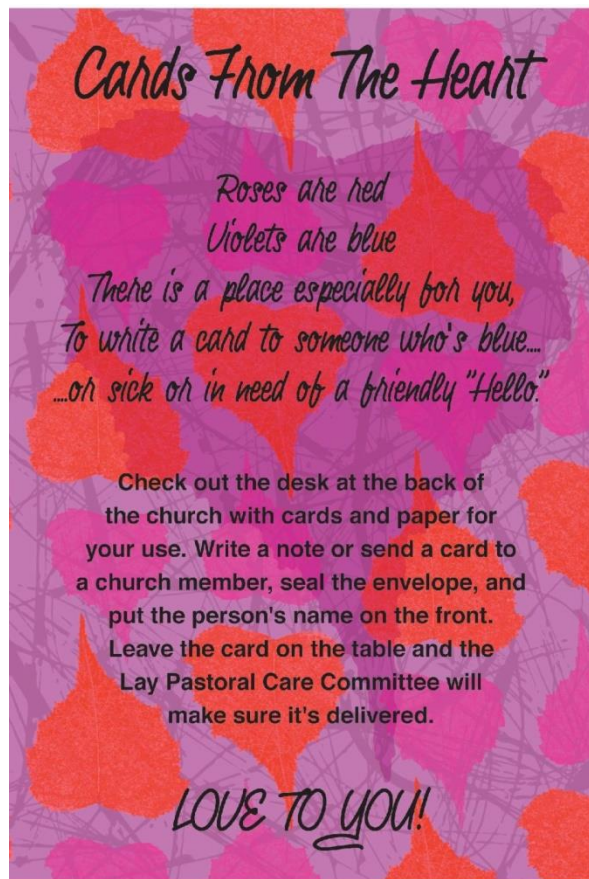


Resale shop news

Do you have a bicycle or 2 you would like to donate to the GPUC Resale Shop?

Here is a great opportunity to recycle that bike, clean out a spot in your garage and help GPUC. We are kicking off a bike drive this winter collecting bikes for resale this spring at the Resale Shop parking lot sale. We will take donated bikes in any shape, size or condition. Mark Franchett and Rudy Wedenoja will recondition and tune up the bikes prior to the sale. Please email, text or call Mark Franchett for pickup of your donated bike.

mark.franchett@gmail.com



Save the **NEW** Date!

The GPUC Auction for this church year will be held **Saturday, April 25th, 2020.**

Our "Roaring 20s" GPUC auction is roaring along! Exciting and fun donations from our congregation include a Name That Tune party, dinner parties, theater tickets, a hand massage, rare baseball items, a Rock 'n Roll music basket, gift certificates to local restaurants, and much, much more.

We ask that all congregants finalize their donation offers with the Acquisitions Committee members in the month of February. Kristen Foley (smithk@umich.edu) can explain all issues related to donations. Our GPUC church is full of creative and generous folks. The auction is sure to be a success, when everyone pitches in to help!

If you have questions, please email either Robin Ramsay (rjramsay@comcast.net) or Christy Winder (clwinder@gmail.com).

Donate Flowers for the Sanctuary Please consider donating fresh flowers for the Sanctuary in recognition, in honor of someone dear or to celebrate or commemorate a special occasion. Flowers add significantly to the ambience on Sunday mornings. Please use the yellow insert in the Sunday order of service or contact the church office to sign-up for a Sunday or two.

You may bring your own arrangement or provide a check (minimum cost \$25) for Susan Hartz (our talented flower chairperson) to purchase and arrange the flowers. After the worship service you may take your flowers home to enjoy the rest of the week. 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.

GPUC SHELTER WEEK DINNER MLK DAY January 20, 2020

Teamwork was the name of the game on January 20th when over two dozen GPUC volunteers provided dinner to homeless guests of the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church. This story started last October with an invitation from a friend at GPUMC. Their church was planning to house homeless adults for a week in January as part of Cass Community Social Services' Rotating Homeless Shelter program. GPUC provided a menu of pasta and meatballs, deviled eggs, tossed salad, southern style green beans, garlic bread, brownies and vanilla ice cream. We fed approximately 40 people including 31 guests and several GPUMC volunteers.

Thank you to our generous volunteers, sponsors and donors: 6 RE students, Aaron and Malena Lilly, Ed Marck, Amy Thelen, Sarah Neely, Miranda and Olivia Barba, Nicki Anderson, Susie Boynton, Lauri Hoese, Chuck Palmer, Bill & Lynn Rehahn, Barb Chiapella & Rob Lyles, Kathy Marcozzi, Suzanne Ross, Kristen Foley, Jessica, Everett & Avery Keyser, Chris, Lucy & Sam Tull, the Social Justice and RE Committees, Dick Olson, Ann Helm, Lauri Hoese and Susie Boynton. Thank you to Erica Phardel and Juli Moore for their assistance in planning the menu and to Julie Artis & Candy Dunn for advice and moral support.

Chris Vadino,
Project Coordinator

2019 Christmas Holiday Giving
LET'S CELEBRATE THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF HOLIDAY GIVING!

We want to recognize the following volunteers who worked so hard in a variety of ways through this church-wide effort. We were able to provide 25 families with food baskets, 407 books, and 107 hats/mittens/gloves/scarves/blankets.

Lauri Hoese, Randi Borys, Jessica Keyser, Will Lewis, Kathleen Ruhl, Wendy Biernat, Ann Helm, Karin Garrett, Susan Boynton, Juli Moore, Carol Hindle, Jim & Jo Ann Kelly, Mollie Fletcher & Alan Darr, Colleen Carter, Karen Webb, Sonja & Mark Franchett, Margit Jackson, Chris Vadino & Chuck Palmer, Robin Ramsay & Rudy Wedenoja, Christy Winder & Russ Chavey, Marck Family, Mary Morshead, Courtney & Jerry Bocci, Debbie Connelly, Hess Family; Jeremiah & Brooke, Tull Family; Chris & Rebecca, Candy Dunn, Bethine Whitney, Laurie Arora, Kathy Marcozzi, Rebecca Marocco, Bill & Lynn Rehahn, Jackie Hoats Shields, Veronica Smith, St. John Family; Jennifer & Valarie, Paul & Ann Lipsitz, Meghan & John Boomhower, Buttiglieri; Joe & Joy Turner, Miranda Ferrara, Jennifer Jungwirth & Shawn Grose, Carol Guither & Jerry Herron, Linda Lawrence, Herb & Jackie Levitt, Christine McNeill, Dick Olson, Don Peterson, Steve & Joy Spurr, Judith LeBeau, Lore & Kari Busch, Janet Weber, Joan Hines, Jim & Alexi Volz, Walter White, Lynn Baker-Hunter, Jud Cole, Kristen Foley, Birdi Hansen-Marr, Wolfe Family; Jeff & Susan, Julie Artis and the Junior & Senior RE students as well as the Collection Plate.

Holiday Giving was a wonderful team effort!

Habitat for Humanity anyone?

Our church participated for several years with Habitat for Humanity Detroit through an organization called Grosse Pointe Partners. GP Partners is a cooperative collaboration of several GP churches to provide volunteers to work on home building/improvement projects Habitat has in Detroit. GP Partners typically chooses one or two Saturdays a month and arranges for 10 or 15 volunteers to work at a building site. Folks who participate in this program can volunteer as often as they are willing and able, there is no requirement.

The person who coordinated this for GPUC is no longer a church member and when he left, our participation ended. GP Partners is asking us to please rejoin them and become active volunteers again. The Board of the church and the Social Justice Committee are looking for someone to be the liaison between GPUC and GP Partners. This would involve attending a meeting on the first Tuesday of the month (7 pm, rotating among the churches as hosts) to learn what is going on, and to represent our congregation's interests. Then that person would communicate to the congregation (via the newsletter, Thursday emails and/or the Sunday program insert) what the schedule is for volunteering, encouraging people to sign up to help on the scheduled Saturday and arranging for a group from GPUC to travel to the job site (when I did this it was always on the east side). In the past we would typically be on site for 3-4 hours and it was usually on a day when teens were allowed to work so we had several students from RE volunteering (I do not know if that is still part of the program).

No tools are required, they provide all the tools and equipment needed for whatever job is being done that day. I went with my daughters several times and while they had no special construction "skills," they would paint, caulk, assist with installing gutters or siding, etc. (holding things while watching and learning). Many times we would be working alongside the (eventual) homeowner which was very rewarding. So, if you might be interested in serving our church and the local community in this manner, please contact Candy in the church office.

For the Board, Russell Chavey

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by **Monday, February 17th at noon**. Submit items to the newsletter email address: newslettergpuc@gmail.com

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