

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

January 2020

Upcoming Services

January 5, 2020
10:30 AM

Sermon: *The Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth?*

Worship Leader: Joshua Lewis Berg
Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer

Anyone following the impeachment hearings or really any political activity for the past two years has been a witness to truth treated with much less than deference. Actual facts are "fake news," whatever that means. Lies and calumny are offered forth as truth. Propagandistic storytelling has become the political actor's modus operandi. What is the truth, if such a thing even continues to exist?

January 12, 2020
10:30 AM

Sermon: *How We Are Called To Change And Grow*

Worship Leader: Kenneth Meisel
Worship Associate: Maurya Kay

Often we are called to change and grow in our life - at times when we least expect it - in response to crisis, illness, interpersonal conflict, deep loss, abrupt changes of circumstance and/or clinical symptoms such as anxiety or depression. The etymological source of the word *change* originally meant "to become different, to become altered." The Old English etymological derivative of the word *grow* referred to our capacity and opportunity "to flourish, to increase." To change and grow, therefore, means we are altered into a flourishing increase of who we are. Kenneth Meisel is a psychotherapist in private practice in Saint Clair Shores. He will interweave both literary and psychological concepts into his lecture with an ultimate early winter's intent to offer perspective and inspiration to our New Years Day Resolutions.

He is also a Kresge Arts Literary Fellow and the author of seven volumes of poetry.

January 19, 2020
10:30 AM

Sermon: *TBA*

Worship Leader: Dr. Ellis Jaruzel
Worship Associate: Joseph Buttiglieri

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Upcoming Events

[Sun Jan 5 RE Classes Begin](#)
[Sun Jan 5 Youth Choir Rehearsals Begin](#)
[Mon/Tues Jan 5 & 6 OWL Parent Orientations](#)
[Wed Jan 8 Adult Choir Rehearsals Begin](#)
[Sat Jan 11 Circle Circle Dinner](#)
[Sun Jan 12 OWL Classes Begin](#)
[Sun Jan 19 Music News](#)
[Mon Jan 20 Feed the Homeless](#)
[Tues Jan 21 Book Group](#)

January 26, 2020
10:30 AM

Sermon: *An Uncommon Theory of Social Change in America*

Worship Leader: Dr. John Artis
Worship Associate: Suzanne Ross

We will explore what it takes to actually bring about true social change in America today. Ideas regarding the nature of change as well as the difficulty of doing the hard work of change will be on the forefront of our inquiry.

Dr. Riegel's Sabbatical



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

Happy New Year!
Releasing the Year Behind Us
A Ritual By Erika A. Hewitt

The new year calls us forward, filled with mystery. As we turn toward that new year, we take a final glimpse of the past year, and reckon with all that it held for us.

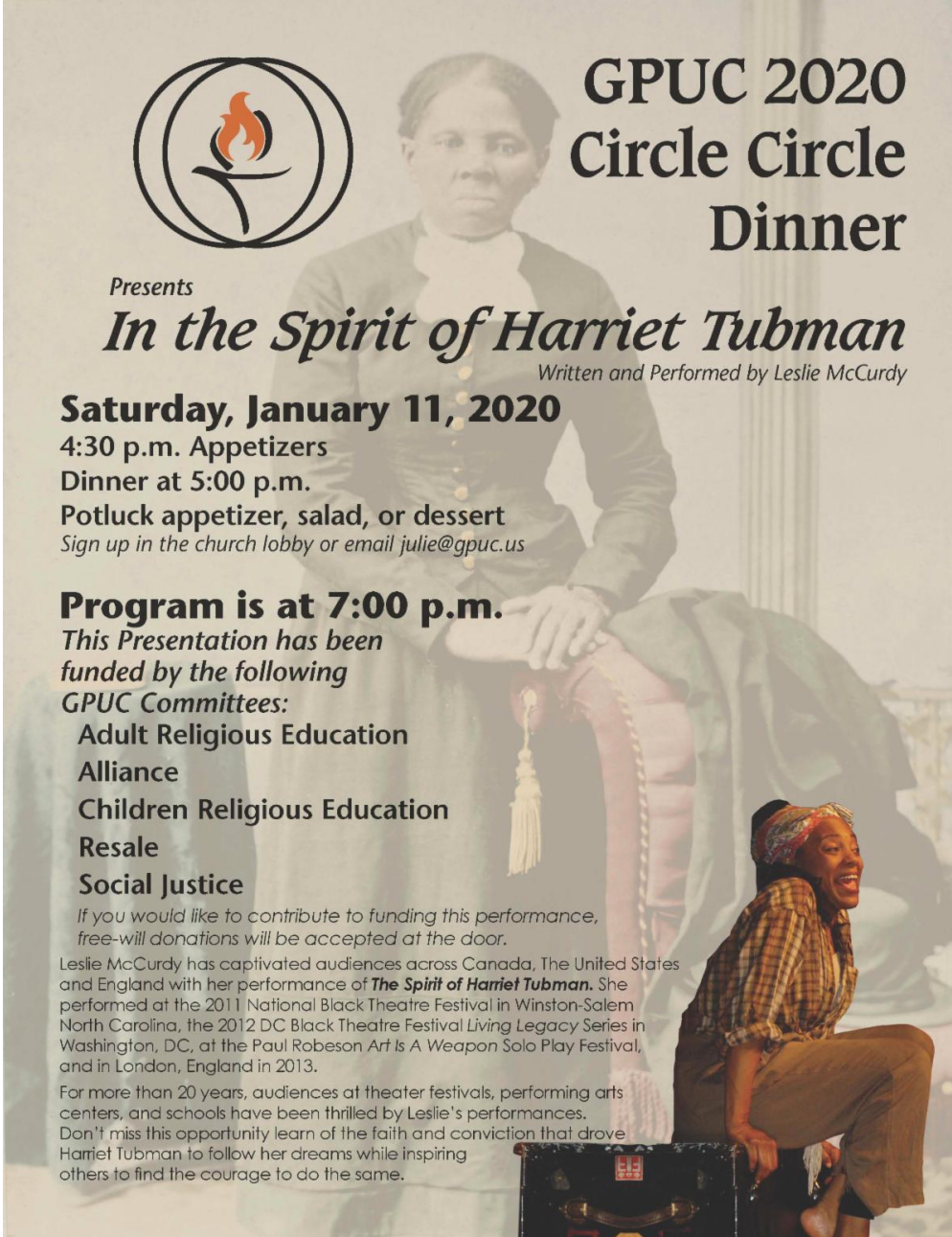
Fellowship News


The Fellowship Committee will meet after service on **January 12th** at 11:45 a.m. in RE wing room 7. We will plan the Chinese New Year luncheon. New members are always welcome.

On **Tuesday, January 21st** at 5:30 pm the Book Group will meet in the Annex to discuss "*Where the Crawdads Sing*" by Delia Owens. All are welcome! Amy Thelen will lead the discussion. Refreshments will be served. Any questions, please contact Juli Moore: jdmoore1415@gmail.com.

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.

Announcements





GPUC 2020 Circle Circle Dinner

Presents
In the Spirit of Harriet Tubman
Written and Performed by Leslie McCurdy

Saturday, January 11, 2020
4:30 p.m. Appetizers
Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
Potluck appetizer, salad, or dessert
Sign up in the church lobby or email julie@gpuc.us

Program is at 7:00 p.m.
This Presentation has been funded by the following GPUC Committees:

- Adult Religious Education
- Alliance
- Children Religious Education
- Resale
- Social Justice

If you would like to contribute to funding this performance, free-will donations will be accepted at the door.

Leslie McCurdy has captivated audiences across Canada, The United States and England with her performance of *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*. She performed at the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem North Carolina, the 2012 DC Black Theatre Festival Living Legacy Series in Washington, DC, at the Paul Robeson Art Is A Weapon Solo Play Festival, and in London, England in 2013.

For more than 20 years, audiences at theater festivals, performing arts centers, and schools have been thrilled by Leslie's performances. Don't miss this opportunity learn of the faith and conviction that drove Harriet Tubman to follow her dreams while inspiring others to find the courage to do the same.

Start the New Year with us Saturday, January 11, 2020 for dinner and/or our exciting program, "In the Spirit of Harriet Tubman". Appetizers and dinner begin at 4:30 p.m., the program begins at 7 p.m.

You must sign-up in the GPUC foyer if you will be attending the dinner. Please sign-up to bring one of the following: appetizer, salad or dessert.

Please contact Julie Artis if you have questions at Julie@gpuc.us

Free-will donation will be accepted at the door. See you **Saturday, January 11, 2020!**

The New Year brings our next Food Sharing Sunday, January 12! 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!

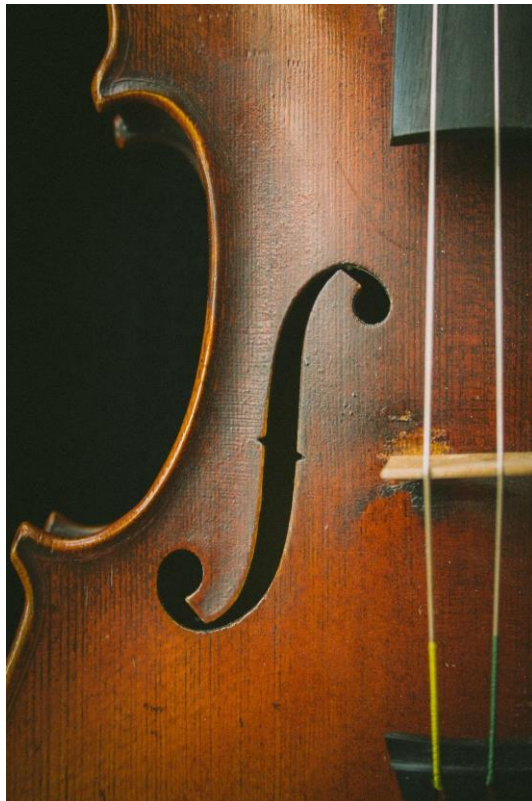


Photo by Johanna on Unsplash

MUSIC NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Guest musicians, both professional and home-grown, have been adding a lot to our worship services at GPUC. **Rick Robinson**, accomplished **contrabass** player gave us a mini-concert in October, **cantor Bryant Frank** sang some beautiful Jewish liturgical music in December, and our very own RE students sang, played piano, violin, saxophone, and sleighbells. In January we'll have an extra special guest: **Sonia Lee**.

Sonia is a graduate of Juilliard and became the youngest **Principal Violinist** in history to join the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. She has played with big names all over the world and has appeared numerous times on TV. I have had the pleasure of not only playing with her, but also conducting her with the Grosse Pointe Community Chorus in our Holiday Concert last month. She got a standing ovation. You won't want to miss her - **SUNDAY JAN. 19th** at the 10:30 A.M. service. Come early to get a good seat. The Adult Choir will be singing too!

CHOIR NEWS: The **Youth Choir** begins rehearsals on Sunday Jan. 5th after RE class. Come sing with us-rehearsals are only 15 minutes!
The **Adult Choir** resumes rehearsals on Wednesday night, Jan. 8th.

SAVE THE DATE: My annual solo-piano concert's theme is *Composers of Color* and will feature the classical music of black and Latino composers, with fascinating stories of people you've never heard of. **Saturday, May 9 at 4:00 at GPUC.**

List of Sabbatical Speakers for 2020

Sabbatical Speakers		
Date	Worship Leader	Description
12/29/2019	Ed Marck	Congregant
1/5/2020	Joshua Berg	Master of Divinity student at Meadville Lombard Theological School working toward Fellowship in the UUA
1/12/2020	Ken Meisel	LSMW, psychotherapist & award-winning poet
1/19/2020	Ellis Jaruzel	Integral psychologist
1/26/2020	John Artis	Congregant
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	Ghada Abdallah	Congregant
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

Please Help GPUC Feed the Homeless on January 20



Photo by Matt Collamer on Unsplash

Will you have the day off from work or school on **MLK Day, January 20th**? If you will, please consider devoting a few hours to a great cause. Last month we told you about the Rotating Shelter that involves local churches housing and feeding the homeless during the coldest months. **GPUC will participate on Jan. 20**, by making and serving a delicious pasta and meatballs dinner for the people who will be housed at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church that week. So far we have raised a total of \$600 in pledges, including generous contributions from Social Justice, RE and several members. Volunteers are needed to help shop, cook, transport, serve and clean up. **We need YOU to make this a success!** Let us know how much time you can give and what you would like to do.

Contact Chris Vadino at (313) 460-8579 or vadino789@comcast.net



Auction Update - April 18th

Our "Roaring 20s" GPUC auction is starting to take shape! First step - we all need to think about what we can donate for the cause. A party? Food? Services? A restaurant gift card? Tickets? Art objects? There are endless possibilities!

Expect someone to call and/or email you in January to help you think about how you can contribute. We hope to have 100% of our congregation participate in this auction in some manner. We need your help!

If you have questions, please email 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 make 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.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by **Monday, January 20th at noon.**

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

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