

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

June 2017

Upcoming Services

June 4, 2017

10:30 AM

R. E. Sunday

Worship Leader: Julie Artis

Worship Associate: Dr. Riegel

Join us for our end of the year recognition of all the wonderful people who work to make our Children's Religious Education program the great success that it is. As a highlight (this year and every year) our Seniors will be speaking to us as they say their goodbyes to our program and launch themselves into the larger world... always poignant moments when our Seniors speak! The youth will also test our religious education knowledge - so do your prep work!

June 11, 2017

10:30 AM

Flower Communion

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel **Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower**

This is our annual Flower Communion service during which we recall the story of Dr. Capek. Please bring a flower to contribute to our collection and then take home different one. This ritual is a symbol of our beloved community. Dr. Riegel will deliver a Homily, "What Flowers Can Teach Us about Being in Relationship." Our annual church picnic follows the service.

June 18, 2017

10:30 AM

***The King of Pointland's Precarious Predicament:
How to Know That You Know That You Don't Know***

Worship Leader: Dr. Riegel

Worship Associate: Janet Weber

The King of Pointland is a character in Edwin Abbott's book, "Flatland." The King is the only inhabitant of Pointland, given that Pointland is the size of a single point in space (hence only having room for one inhabitant). Given this, the king is highly self-referential and rather narcissistic. Dr. Riegel will draw from this figure as a metaphor for mental hubris run amok, then discuss the antidote to said hubris, concerning which we ought all to take note.

June 25, 2017

10:30 AM

Perceptions of God

Worship Leader: Miles Barnett

Worship Associate: Joe Buttiglieri

I asked leaders from thirty different religious groups to explain their perceptions of God. My thought was, if people can have a better understanding of the different views of God, it may lead to an open dialogue, allowing for better religious understanding. It may also give individuals perceptions into their own religions and have them become more involved in their belief system.

Alexander's Meander

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Could Bowing Change the World?

It was Nietzsche who said that "*thoughts* that change the *world* come on *doves'* feet." Nietzsche was correct. Power resides in subtlety.

As I watched the news coverage of yet again another Trump handshake, Nietzsche's thought crossed my mind. If *thoughts* that change the *world* come on *doves'* feet, if power resides in subtlety, then maybe a subtle *action* can also change the world? What, I wondered, if we abandoned the handshake for the bow?

Watching president Trump and the newly elected French president Emmanuel Macron shake hands (www.cnn.com/2017/05/29/politics/macron-trump-handshake) it dawned on me how much a show of personal power the handshake has come to symbolize. It is the socially acceptable form pistols at dawn. It is the mano-a-mano of radical individualism, in which someone always gets the upper hand and that someone is considered to be the alpha in the pack.

Bowing removes this combative dynamic. Bowing is about the recognition of the Divine spark in one another (One bows to gods and goddesses.). It is an expression of honor, equality, mutuality... the recognition that "I am you and you are me," (Or, in John and Paul's more poetic form, "I am he, As you are he, As you are me, And we are all together"). Bowing says, "The Divine in me honors the Divine in you."

Think about what a game changer that is! Think about what it would be like if the next person who was in the public gaze with president Trump bowed instead of shook hands. Think about the impact such a subtle action would have. The media would be in a frenzy as it rushed to elaborate that the hand shaker has been dis-armed!

So, let's start a movement. "The light in me honors (bows to) the light in you!"
Maybe such honor will "trickle up!"



Namaste

Alex

Message from the GPUC Board of Trustees

Well, we have again demonstrated our democratic process by electing members to new positions on the Board, the Leadership Development Committee, the Committee on Ministry, and an auditor. Let me say again how privileged I feel to have served on the Board for 4 years, and 2 years as president. This is my last Newsletter note. Joe Buttiglieri will take the helm as Board President on July 1. Please welcome and thank the outgoing and incoming Board members for their service. I have every confidence that our new Board and President will do a wonderful job for our church.

The Board will continue to work on several ongoing issues:

- Paving the Parking lot median
- Supporting the Landscape Task Force
- Supporting the Vision Task Forces
- Revising the Bylaws and Policies as appropriate

- Overseeing the Finances of the Church
- Supporting Membership and Canvass Efforts
- Supporting all the Committees, and streamlining Committee Structure

We plan to hold a Board Retreat in late August or Early September with 2016-17 and 2017-18 Board Members to aid the transition of the new Board, and to lay out priorities for next year.

I'd like to publish here the list of Thank-you's I expressed at the Annual Meeting and in my Annual Report.

Board Members and Committee Chairs who leave their posts this year:

Laura Bartell - Thanks for your intelligent, dedicated and earnest attention to our financial health and for pointing out potential problems.

Paul Rowady - Thanks for your years as our Endowment Chair

Christy Winder - Thanks for your wisdom and humor.

Veronica Smith - Thanks for your wisdom and forthright efforts as chair of Committee on Ministry.

Karen Webb - Thanks for your earnest efforts as chair of Leadership Development for 2 years.

Chris Vadino - Thanks for organizing the Fellowship Dinner for 2 years.

Cynthia Luce and Pat Gillis - Thanks for all the pithy sayings on our Wayside Pulpit. These are appreciated more than you may know.

Zsombor Zoltan - Thanks for serving as coffee chair when we needed help.

Sabrina Biernat - Thanks for your support to Candy as our Administrative Chair

New Committee Chairs that who stepped up this year:

Jill Crane - Thank you for heading the Fellowship Committee and expanding our events.

Amy Thelen - Thanks for co-chairing the Resale Shop and instituting Ebay Sales.

Juli Moore - Thanks for organizing our Fellowship Dinner with such creativity

Miriam Engstrom, Maurya Kay, Rob Lyles - Thanks for your leadership on the Social Justice Committee

Janna Sendra - Thanks for your dedication as RE Chair

Tonya Wells - Thanks for heading the Sunday Services Committee

RE Juniors and Parents - Thanks for stepping up for our Sunday coffee service.

Ann Helm - Thanks for taking on the position of Administrative Chair, to help our office run smoothly.

And Thank-you to our wonderful Minister, Alex Riegel and to our wonderful staff: Julie Artis, Joseph Palazzolo, Candy Dunn, and Willie Barber!!!

Robin Ramsay
President, GPUC Board of Trustees

Religious Education News



"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." -L. M. Montgomery

June is finally here with sunny days and warmth. We have already seen the flower garden at our church and the green grass in the Memorial Garden. Our smiles are deepened and we are laughing with our hearts open for summer!!!! This is also the ending of our 2016-17 Religious Education Church School Year. We hope you enjoy our RE Sunday, June 4 at 10:30 a.m. with the presentations of our students. They will have their own "Jeopardy Game" for the congregation. We also have three senior high students who will be sharing their thoughts about their church school experience at GPUC. Please bring your family and friends to celebrate our students learning year of Unitarian Abrahamic Faiths.

We will also honor our volunteer Religious Education Committee, teachers and OWL trainers. They have donated their time and talent to make our Religious Education Program enlightened and fun for all our GPUC students.

Even though we are ending our 2016-17 church year, we are looking ahead for the August classes and next year's curriculum. If you would like to volunteer your time in the Religious Education program, please

contact me by phone or email. We have many volunteer positions that need to be filled. I am also looking for three volunteers to clean our supply closet.

As the summer approaches, enjoy your family, church and friends. Remember we have services all summer and the nursery is open. Thank you to everyone for all your time, talent and friendship. Have a safe and fun summer.

With love and gratitude,
Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

P.S. Here is some summer fun with a **Seven Principle Sundae**

COOKIE: A cookie at the bottom of the bowl represents the EARTH - 7th UU Principle.

ICE CREAM: One or two scoops of ice cream represent LOVE - 1st UU Principle.

TOPPING: Toppings like hot fudge, caramel or strawberries represent our 3rd UU Principle of learning.

MIXED NUTS: Nuts represent our 4th UU Principle. We all are on a SEARCH for truth and meaning.

WHIPPED CREAM: Adding whipped cream to your sundae represents the JUSTICE and EQUITY mentioned in our 2nd UU Principle.

CHERRY: A cherry on top represents PEACE - 6th UU Principle.

SPRINKLES: Adding a generous dash of red, white, and blue sprinkles. They represent DEMOCRACY, our 5th Principle.

Now ENJOY!

Dates to Remember

June 4- RE Sunday, all students in the church service

June 11-Flower Sunday and church picnic, all students in the church service

June 18-Father's Day

June 25-RE picnic at Neff Park at noon

The **Nursery** will be open at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning starting June 18 for the summer. We will have the same loving childcare workers to provide a safe and caring place for our young UU's.

Julie Artis
RE Director

Announcements

June 11th: Annual Picnic

Join us after church for our Annual Picnic. Hot dogs, water, and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, a blanket or folding chair. Prepare to relax and enjoy the fellowship, food and fun. Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up. Sign-up in the foyer on Sunday. Many hands make light work.

Jill Crane, Fellowship Chair

Ten Whole Kids Will Go to Camp!

The Schools Tutoring Committee is happy to announce that we have reached our goal of sending 10 of the most academically improved students in sixth grade at Detroit Merit Academy to camp for a week. At the school assembly, the ten students were presented with fancy certificates after viewing slides of Howell Nature Center and the highlights of the "Lakeshore Adventure" session scheduled August 6-11 this summer. A big thank you to our generous members and friends who made this possible. Of course, if you would still like to contribute, the teachers did nominate a list of eight alternates. There's no law against sending more kids to camp. Right now, we know that 10 excited kids can hardly wait for the date.

HELP WANTED

The **Clearance Corner** located in the Resale Shop needs help. We are looking for people to help on Wednesdays for only 2 1/2 hrs. a month. There are two shifts. Morning 10:00am-12:30pm and afternoon from 12:30-3:00pm. The job involves selling merchandise and is not labor intensive. This is a great opportunity for anyone with limited time to volunteer to help the church. You will also meet the many interesting people from the community who visit our Resale Shop. Please call or email Mary Morshead if this is something that would fit into your schedule.

Our next First Sunday Food Sharing will be Sunday, June 4.

Please bring boxed, canned, or bagged food donations for our monthly contribution to the Crossroads East food pantry. If you have extra toiletry items such as toothpaste, soap, and deodorant, they are also gratefully accepted.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, your contributions are used to purchase perishables such as eggs, milk, produce, bread, and lunch meat for the pantry on a (most) weekly basis.

The clients at Crossroads East, located at Salem Memorial Lutheran Church, are assisted with social

services needs, supplemental food, transportation, and clothing.

Our donations are always greatly appreciated! Thank you!!!

Church Council Calendar Meeting

Attention all new Board Members & Committee Chairs, there will be a meeting of the Church Council on **Sunday, June 4th** to coordinate and **set the calendar for the 2017-2018** church year. At this meeting we schedule the yearly church events, special events and get an idea of the proposed committee meeting schedules. We will meet after the service in the library.

If you are not able to attend, please send a representative from your committee.

Women's Book Discussion Group

The Women's Book Discussion Group will meet during the summer at a member's home. Please see the Thursday email for dates, times, members' homes and book to discuss.

Jill Crane, Fellowship Chair

UU Crafters

UU Crafters usually meet on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. In June, we will meet on the 20th and 27th. Our next meeting takes place on Tuesday, June 20th, in the Annex, from 7-9pm. All are welcome to join in for an evening of social stitching (knit, crochet, quilting, needlepoint, etc.) and other small crafts.

Also, if you like to color and haven't tried the new adult coloring books there are books and markers for anyone who would like to give it a try. We plan on meeting during the summer months. Check the church calendar on the website and the weekly email for any changes.

Please contact Ann Helm with any questions.

Kroger Community Rewards Program: GPUC members have been participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program since 2009. This program returns money to the participating organization based on a percentage of the purchases made by the members of the organization who have enrolled. About \$1000 has been earned by GPUC annually since the program began! Many thanks to all who are enrolled in this program. Have you signed up to participate? If not, please consider doing it as every little bit helps! Once enrolled - all you have to do is shop at Kroger. New participants are able to join the program at any time.

To participate: Sign up at a Kroger store for the Kroger Plus Shopper's Card.

Go to kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow and follow the prompts remembering to check the church name. You will need to use this code: 83283.

GREAT NEWS! Kroger no longer requires each person to re-enroll in the program every year.

Our office administrator, Candy Dunn is glad to help with your enrollment, call her if you encounter trouble or can't access the internet. 313-881-0420

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by Friday, August 18 at noon. They should be sent to newsletter@gpuc.us.

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