

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 2021

November Newsletter Deadline

Mark your calendars and please submit your contribution to the next newsletter by

Friday, October 22nd

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

Upcoming Services

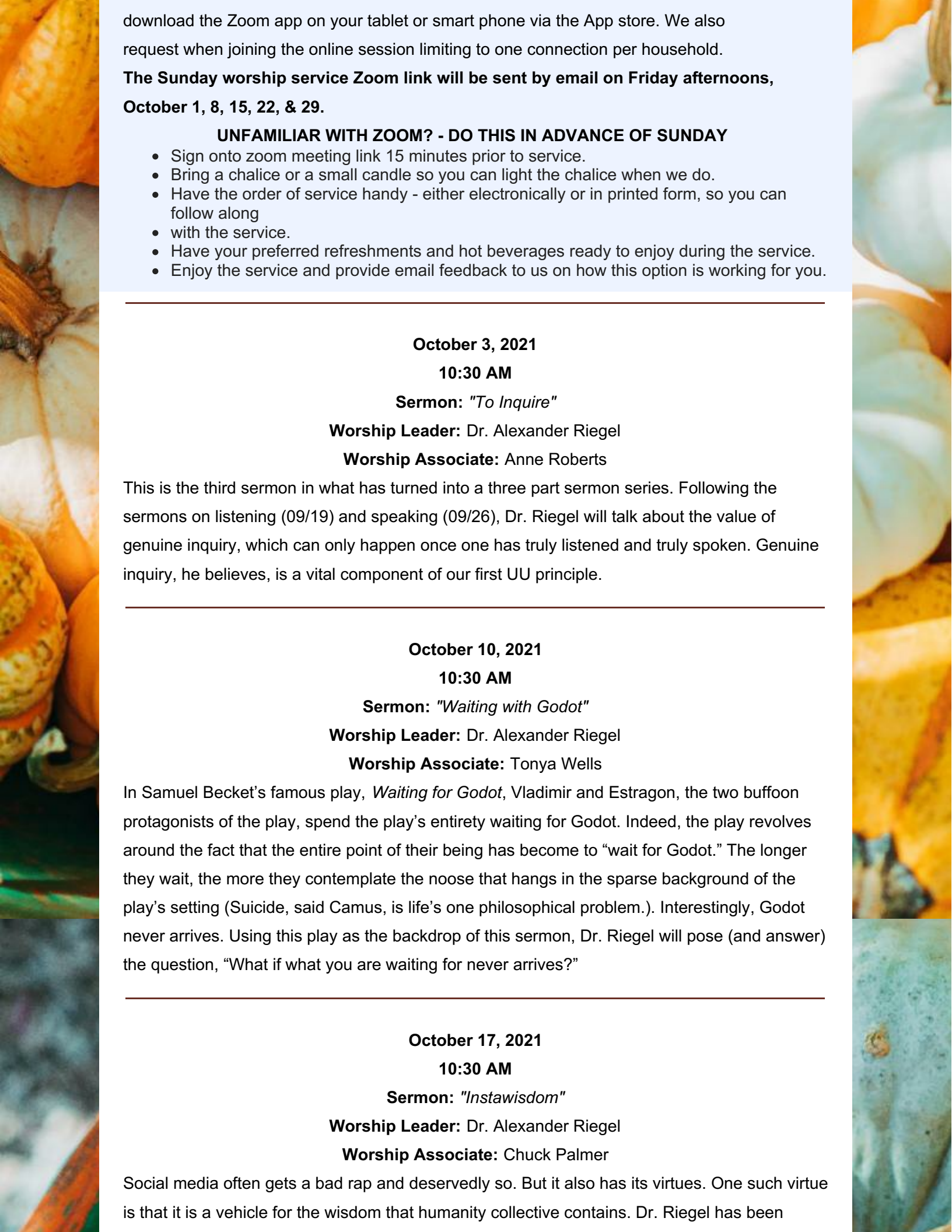


Sunday services policies

As you all should be aware, the board decided early in the summer to resume in-person Sunday services “officially” on September 12, with several trial runs in July and August. The situation with COVID in our community and State remains quite fluid so the board and the Sunday services committee are continually re-evaluating our policies related to in-person gatherings. At this time we will continue to plan for in-person services Sunday mornings with a zoom option available for those who are unable or are uncomfortable with attending in-person. However, since data show that singing produces anywhere from 3 to 11 times more droplets that then circulate throughout the occupied space (compared to speaking), services will not include singing at this time. We will continue to have hymns during the service and those who are viewing via zoom can sing at home if they wish. Those who are in-person in the sanctuary can feel free to hum along with the music, tap their feet, clap, sway with the music or express themselves in any way that does not involve verbalizing with an open mouth. As a reminder, current church policy requires anyone entering the church must be fully vaccinated (if eligible) and masked (if over two years of age). We also encourage everyone to inquire of friends you see in church as to their comfort level with handshakes, fist bumps, hugs, etc. before engaging anyone physically. Greeters will not be touching folks upon entry to the church.

Worship services will continue to be provided online using Zoom.

It is recommended that you join early and use a laptop, desktop with a webcam or you may

A decorative border on the left and right sides of the page features various pumpkins and gourds in shades of orange, yellow, and green.

download the Zoom app on your tablet or smart phone via the App store. We also request when joining the online session limiting to one connection per household.

The Sunday worship service Zoom link will be sent by email on Friday afternoons, October 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.

UNFAMILIAR WITH ZOOM? - DO THIS IN ADVANCE OF SUNDAY

- Sign onto zoom meeting link 15 minutes prior to service.
- Bring a chalice or a small candle so you can light the chalice when we do.
- Have the order of service handy - either electronically or in printed form, so you can follow along
- with the service.
- Have your preferred refreshments and hot beverages ready to enjoy during the service.
- Enjoy the service and provide email feedback to us on how this option is working for you.

October 3, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"To Inquire"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Anne Roberts

This is the third sermon in what has turned into a three part sermon series. Following the sermons on listening (09/19) and speaking (09/26), Dr. Riegel will talk about the value of genuine inquiry, which can only happen once one has truly listened and truly spoken. Genuine inquiry, he believes, is a vital component of our first UU principle.

October 10, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Waiting with Godot"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Tonya Wells

In Samuel Becket's famous play, *Waiting for Godot*, Vladimir and Estragon, the two buffoon protagonists of the play, spend the play's entirety waiting for Godot. Indeed, the play revolves around the fact that the entire point of their being has become to "wait for Godot." The longer they wait, the more they contemplate the noose that hangs in the sparse background of the play's setting (Suicide, said Camus, is life's one philosophical problem.). Interestingly, Godot never arrives. Using this play as the backdrop of this sermon, Dr. Riegel will pose (and answer) the question, "What if what you are waiting for never arrives?"

October 17, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: *"Instawisdom"*

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer

Social media often gets a bad rap and deservedly so. But it also has its virtues. One such virtue is that it is a vehicle for the wisdom that humanity collective contains. Dr. Riegel has been

collecting wise Instagram posts that reflect our collective human wisdom and will reflect on some of these wise postings. Consider this another potpourri sermon, which usually gives one plenty of grist for one's mill!

October 24, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: "*Cephy*"

Worship Leader: Dr. Alexander Riegel

Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhower

With all of the challenges facing us as individuals and as a culture, e.g., global warming, Covid, national and geopolitics, etc., we are experiencing too many examples of human nature run amok. This is what *naturally* happens when the survival instinct kicks into full gear. What humanity needs most, however, is a *counterintuitive* response to the challenges we face, not an instinctual one. Cephy's story contains the antidote we need for a time like this.

October 31, 2021

10:30 AM

Sermon: "*Poetry Potpourri*"

Worship Leader: Various Members of GPUC

Worship Associate: Chuck Palmer

One of the more popular sermon styles this past year has been Dr. Riegel's "potpourri" sermons, addressing several different topics, related or not, over the course of a sermon. This Sunday, four different members of GPUC will do a poetry potpourri. Come (or Zoom in) and hear what wisdom your fellow GPUCers have to share with us!

Alexander's Meander



About a year ago, I included the following Meditation as part of a Sunday morning Zoom service. I wrote it while spending some time in Grayling, MI. I offer it to you again because one of the hymns we sang last Sunday reminded me of the place I often go to "find a stillness." Given the current trials and travails of our world, I encourage you, too, to remember to "find a stillness." Perhaps this Meditation will motivate you to do so... we all need such stillness in our lives these days!

"White Birches"

The woods of Northern Michigan have been a place of spiritual sojourn for me my entire life. My father first introduced these woods to me when I was in grade school and I have been returning to these woods ever since. In these woods, one can walk for miles and miles without encountering a single civilized sight or sound. Rather, one encounters silence, occasionally punctuated by the wind rustling through the treetops, deer darting through the brush, or the occasional piercing cry of a raptor on the hunt. One encounters curtains of dark evergreen, crystallized snow be-speckled with diamonds, and the vivid, earthy hues of autumn leaves. One encounters the smell of wild berries, the decay of fallen wildlife, and the various scents of various wildflowers as they bow to the wind and reach toward the sun.

This is sacred depth, to be immersed in which is in all too uncommon experience for most.

But it comes with a price...

To enter this sacred depth, one must leave behind the trials and tribulations of one's life, otherwise, one can walk for miles and miles through these woods and never have set foot on the ground — and though seeing, never see the gifts.

I've received too many gifts to count, some of which I've surely even forgotten, in these decades sojourning through these woods. Some, however, I shall never forget. Always at my side a furry, four-legged companion, teaching me the lifelong lesson of connection and commitment. Always about me, when I sit for a time against a fallen tree, the stillness of the deep woods teaching me the lifelong lesson of what it means just "to be." And then there are the white birch trees.

White birch trees have always held special a meaning for me, ever since that lucid wintry day in my teen years when, sitting in these woods, I awakened to, and became mesmerized by, the white birch intermingled among a thick grove of dark evergreen.

Stretching from the ground to the azure blue sky above, they seemed like angelic presences, guarding the woods and watching over sojourners like myself, as if to say, "No harm shall befall you here." Ever since, I've taken comfort in their presence. They are the keepers of this sacred depth, hosts of holiness, so to speak, my assurance that despite my egoic misgivings, all is well. Feeling this truth in the depths of my soul, I breathe in the woods again, becoming one with her sacred depth...the white birch circled about me.

Namaste,

Alex

Religious Education News



The Religious Education classes are in full swing and this year our lessons are on our UU Faith. We work hard to empower our young UU's in our classes to care about each other and their community and our world. One of the ways we encourage caring at GPUC/RE program is through a collection of funds at Halloween. Sunday, October 31 we will ask the students to come in costume. They will greet you in the Memorial Garden area with their **Make a Wish-Michigan** bags. Please bring coins and paper money to give to **Make a Wish-Michigan** on Sunday, October 31. You will be able to see all the students in their fun costumes. (They will all be wearing masks)

We all need to inspire caring and the spirit of giving. The **Make a Wish** 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. A wish experience can be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition. We want to teach our children lessons of charity as a way of life. We must start while they are young.

On Sunday, October 31, remember to bring your funds to put in the **Make a Wish** bags. When you give to others you give to yourself and your family.

Religious Education Lessons

Our GPUC Nursery will be open at 10:00 a.m. every week for our young UU's.

We will be outdoors for classes when ever possible. Please have your student wear a mask.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, October 3 at 10:30 a.m. all students and parents our to meet on Belle Isle to have a tour with Jen Grose.

Sunday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. all students will be involved with our Peace Pole Ceremony at GPUC.

Sunday, October 24 at 1:00 p.m. all students are invited to tour Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit, MI with Crosby Washburne.

Sunday, October 31 at 11:30 a.m. Trick or Treat for Make A Wish-Michigan in the Memorial Garden right after the service. Remember to wear your costume.

There are two lasting bequests we can give our children.

One is roots. The other is wings.

— Hodding Carter, Jr.

Peace,

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education

Announcements, Upcoming Programs And Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ELMWOOD CEMETERY TOUR

Sunday, October 24, 2021

1:00 p.m._

Tour Guide: Crosby Washburne



The Elmwood Cemetery is the oldest continuously operating, non-denominational cemetery in Detroit. The cemetery was established in 1846 and incorporated in 1849 as a non-profit corporation by an act of the Michigan Legislature. Elmwood has been recognized as a significant site for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Sponsored by: Religious Education & Fellowship Committee

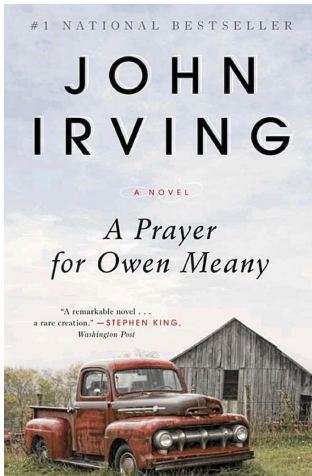
[Click to open ARE COMING ATTRACTIONS PDF](#)

The Adult Religious Education Committee Is Requesting Your Help

On behalf of the Adult Religious Education Committee, I am asking your help in planning future programs. Are there specific kinds of events that you would like our committee to consider — lectures, films, book study and/or discussion groups, guided visits to local arts or cultural institutions, or some other kind of programming? Please let me know. We would be grateful for your suggestions!

Thanks,

Jerry Herron, on behalf of the ARE Committee (Jerry.Herron@wayne.edu)



Book Discussion Group To Discuss: *A Prayer for Owen Meany* Tuesday, October 19th, at 6 pm

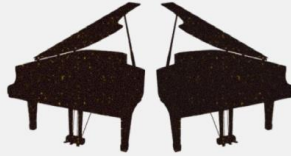
This month the book group will meet in person (full vaccination and masks required) in the church Annex on October 19th at 6 pm. We hope to have Zoom available for those unable to attend. Robin Ramsay will lead a discussion of John Irving's novel *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. Non-members can get further information by contacting Juli Moore: jdmoore1415@gmail.com

DUELING PIANOS FIFTH EDITION

An In Person and Online Performance by
JOSEPH PALAZZOLO & ANNE ROBERTS

Featuring

*Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, a Piazzola tango,
Rachmaninoff, Faure, LeRoy Anderson, a jazzy suite,
Skip to My Lou*



Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

17150 Maumee Ave.

Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

TICKETS PRICES:

In Person Viewing: PRESALE \$20 - DOOR \$25

Online Viewing: \$10

You can purchase tickets from the church website:
gpuuc.org/concerts

Or cash or check from office during business hours 313-881-0420

GPUC Resale Shop Used Bike Donation & Sale

Are you looking for a bike or do you have a old bike to donate? Now is your chance to get a bike or clear that old bike out of your garage and support the GPUC Resale Shop.

Recycle Reuse Repurpose a Bike for a Great Purpose

Please [click here to view all bikes](#) currently up for purchase.



Mark Franchett is now selling the bikes from his garage with all proceeds going to the GPUC Resale Shop. We have had a successful bike sale this spring and summer raising over \$1000 for the resale shop. There are a few remaining bikes. If you have a bike to donate, please contact Mark.

If you are interested, please send him an email (mark.franchett@gmail.com) or call the phone number listed in the GPUC directory. From there, you can set up a time to stop by for a test ride. If needed, he can deliver the bike to your home if you are unable to fit the bike in your car.

Vaccination Event October 24th: Flu Shots, Covid19 Vaccines and Boosters

On Sunday, Oct 24th before and after service, Macomb Pharmacy and Wellness will be providing the



community with Flu Shots (both all ages and 65+) as well as all 3 Covid-19 vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer and J&J) and authorized boosters.

The vaccines will be provided in the Annex.

We will be sending out a sign up and information in the upcoming weeks so be on the look out for that text and email!!

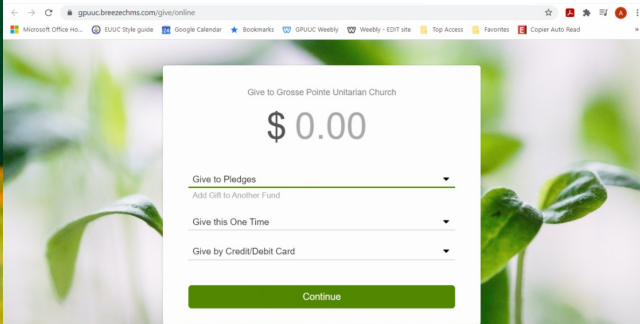
Giving Made Easy Thanks to Breeze!

We have been encouraging many to utilize Breeze as an alternative to paying for your pledges, fundraising or just giving a donation! Breeze gives the option of setting up recurring transactions or give one time.

When using Breeze, it will give you the option to cover the processing fee without having to calculate. The processing fee will be credited towards your total tax-deductible giving and will help us retain every bit of your donation!

If you have any questions about Breeze, please feel free to reach out to Ameera.

Thank you!



Click Here To Give Now!

RESALE SHOP NEWS!!!

The GPUC Resale Shop in the Annex is up and running on Wednesdays. The sale rooms are open from 10am – 3pm, donations are coming in from 9am – 2pm (2 boxes or 2 bags per week, please), and sales are going out the door as customers return, eager to shop. Resale hopes to realize its pre-pandemic monthly financial contribution to the church.



To help in this endeavor we would like to reopen our sale rooms on Thursday evenings from 7 – 9pm. This will require some volunteers, preferably two folks each week. With enough volunteers the time commitment would amount to as little as one evening a month. If you are interested in volunteering and/or need more information, please contact Suzanne Ross: 586-405-6707; suz55555@gmail.com

Resale Shop October features!

The Shop is featuring some lovely occasional tables and table lamps. There's an intriguing selection of collectable "Hen-on-a nest" covered dishes. If you are looking for a set of fine china, look no further than our Shop. We are putting out winter coats and clothing at very reasonable prices. *Come shop with us and meet our friendly staff!*

Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

CROSSROADS EAST collections and drop offs are ongoing. If you would like to contribute nonperishable food items or hygiene products, please drop them at the church. We also gladly accept monetary donations, which are used to purchase fruit, veggies, eggs, milk, and bread. Your contributions are delivered to Crossroads East on Moross, and always gratefully received there. *Thank you for helping our community!*

Virtual Services Archive

Those of you that have missed any of the virtual Sunday worship services can watch, listen to the audio or read the chat on our website under: [WHO WE ARE - SUNDAY SERVICES - VIRTUAL SERVICES](#) or click this link: <https://www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services.html>

We continue to upload the weekly virtual services to the church website.

We are hiring Zoom Techs

The popularity of our zoom services continues, and our plan is to continue to zoom broadcast our live services. We have purchased additional microphones, a camera, and a mixer to enable a quality broadcast. Broadcasting the service requires a technician to set up, monitor and tear down the equipment for each service. Consequently, there is a need to have a trained technician for every service, and this 3-hour-a-week time commitment was burdensome for our small number of trained volunteers. To alleviate that burden and to ensure continued zoom broadcasting ability, the board recently voted to seek the services of a technician that would be paid to manage the process.

On an interim basis the board has hired Chris Biernat, an experienced videographer from the congregation to provide this service. Chris will be leaving in January, and we are looking to hire one or two individual(s) to continue to provide the support for the broadcast. Our first choice is someone associated with GPUC. There is no age requirement, high school students are welcome to apply. The job requirements are:

1. General PC Skills
2. Familiarity with uploading files to shared file systems
3. Video conferencing tools experience
4. Technical trouble-shooting skills
5. Reliable
6. Available Sunday mornings 9:45AM to 12:30

Compensation will be by the hour at a rate to be determined at hiring.

If you are interested, please contact Rudy Wedenoja at rudy@wedenoja.com.

Earn Money for Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church



□ Kroger rewards support GPUC

Join the 32 households who currently support GPUC by shopping at Kroger. This activity earns around \$500 a year and once enrolled in KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS it is an easy way to help. **Thanks to those who have enrolled.** Check the bottom of your receipt the next time you shop for the message reassuring you that Kroger is donating to GPUC.

Kroger Community Rewards gives to GPUC - enroll at any time!
Our organization number is: FF794

Thanks, Janet Weber

FREE Grief Support Offering



Grief: Releasing Pain, Remembering Love & Finding Meaning

David Kessler is one of the leaders in Grief work in the counseling field. He started a free private online grief group for so many who are isolated during the pandemic and not able to reach out and get the grief support they need. There are live sessions and amazing guests so check them out and feel free to join the free group at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DavidKessler/>.

Additional grief support: If anyone needs grief support due to cancer, here is a local link to get set up in a virtual program right now with Gilda's Club Metro Detroit. Contact information:

Photo by Milada Vigerova on Unsplash

Rebekah Agnew, LLPC

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit: Lake House Location

An affiliate of the Cancer Support Community

Program Manager

Email: ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org

Gentle Yoga

Weekly Gentle Yoga Moves Outdoors

**THURSDAYS 4:30-5:30PM
(EST, US and Canada)**

Weekly Thursday afternoon yoga classes will continue in the Church Memorial Gardens, 4:30-5:30 on Thursdays, with an optional Zoom link for those who will attend remotely. Once the temperatures drop, likely the second or third week in October, we will go back to Zoom only.

Cost will be \$5.00 per session, and participants can either pay cash/check in person for each session, or pay by the Venmo app.

Please [click here](#) for Carol's Venmo information.

If you need help signing up for Venmo, please contact Ameera in the office and she will walk you through the sign up process.

Note: Venmo is a subsidiary of PayPal, and requires a credit card number for the transaction.

Thursday, October 7, 14, 21 & 28



Healing Clinic and Meditation

**Healing Clinic and Meditation
Third Thursday of the month**

October 21, 7- 8:30PM

Join us for this in-person community event, every 3rd Thursday of the monthly, offering Pranic Healing sessions and Meditation on Twin Hearts.

Pranic Healing is an advanced system of energy medicine that utilizes prana or chi to cleanse and harmonize the body's energy system.

The healing clinic begins with a beautiful guided meditation. Then Pranic Healers offer mini healing sessions for relief from physical and/or emotional issues.

Must be 16 years old to participate in the meditation. All ages welcome for healing.

**NOTE: If you are symptomatic or not feeling well please stay home. You may schedule a distant healing session. Please call or text if you are requiring distant healing.
Carrie 586-943-4404**

Donations welcome.

Venmo

<https://venmo.com/Carrie-Viviano>

Cash App

[https://cash.app/\\$CarrieViviano](https://cash.app/$CarrieViviano)

Paypal

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/carrieviviano>



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