

*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 2022

### November 2022 Newsletter Deadline

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

**Friday, October 21st**

Submit items to the newsletter email address: [newslettergpuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettergpuc@gmail.com)

### PHISHING SCAM on GPUC WEBSITE!

Dear Members and Friends,

We've recently discovered that there is a phishing scheme being conducted on our GPUC main website.

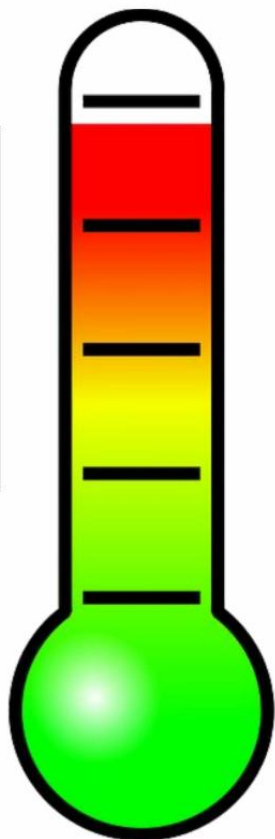
**There is a new tab "Log In." DO NOT CLICK ON THE TAB and definitely do not enter your information on that tab.**

We are working to remedy the situation and it may take a few days. We will be changing the password for our members only section. That email will go out to members once we resolve this issue. In the meantime, ignore any emails you receive from apparent fellow GPUC Users unless you are certain they are from a legitimate email address.

If you have any questions, please contact Ameera or Alex.

Thank you!

Current  
community  
spread is  
high



## GPUC COVID GUIDELINES

Based on Wayne County community guidelines tracked on [www.covid.cdc.gov](https://www.covid.cdc.gov)

All members attending in person must have COVID vaccines up to date – virtual option also available. It is the expectation that all members and visitors would respectfully stay home or get tested if any question of active infection.

Critical high spread – board will determine if appropriate to be all virtual

High spread – N95 type mask highly recommend for in-person

Medium spread – Mask use recommended in-person --especially if you are at high risk for severe illness

Low spread – Mask use to your comfort level



## Church COVID Vaccination/Booster and Masking Policies:

Throughout the pandemic, we have regularly updated our policies and monitored the latest guidance from the CDC. At our most recent Board meeting, we agreed to continue the requirement of updated vaccination status per CDC guidelines (which now include the new bivalent booster) for all individuals who join our Sunday Services in the church and for the GPUC staff. Recognizing the limited availability of the new bivalent booster, we are asking staff to be vaccinated by October 15th, and would ask that congregants update their boosters within the next 60 days. We will have a vaccine clinic at the church on October 2nd, and the new bivalent booster will be available.

**Vaccine clinic at the church on October 2nd**

GPUC offers hybrid services (in-person and on zoom) each Sunday to ensure the most vulnerable among us can participate if they are not comfortable joining in person. We make N95 masks available at the church. We encourage attendees of in-person Sunday Services to mask and also to respect the wishes of at-risk congregants if they prefer masking in small group meetings. We strongly encourage individuals to mask if they have even minor Cold/flu/allergy symptoms.



**Thank you.**

**The GPUC Board**

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**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 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 7, 14, 21 & 28.**

**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.

## Upcoming Services

**October 2, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"From the Buddha to Gibran: Suffering and the Religious Life"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Maurya Kay

One of the more frequent arguments against religion is the fact of suffering in life. How do the different religious traditions view suffering and do those views explain the problem of suffering in a meaningful way?

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**October 9, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"Who Is Protecting the Inherent Worth and Dignity of Women in Prison?"*

**Worship Leader:** Jamie Hein

*[Jamie Hein is a Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan studying the reproduction of gender in carceral spaces and the rise of women's mass incarceration in the United States.]*

**Worship Associate:** Tonya Wells

Join us to learn about the inhumane conditions experienced in the criminal confinement system from the perspective of a researcher who can describe what happens to women from her studies and her own personal experiences. Understand how the confinement system operates from a White Supremacist patriarchal rule book and just how much is at risk for women.

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**October 16, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"Repent!"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Meghan Boomhower

Certain religious terms can make liberal skins crawl. "Repent" is one such term. In the spirit of Dr. Riegel's Sept. 18th sermon, during which he suggested liberals need to reclaim theological language, Dr. Riegel will suggest that that term "repent" has been grossly misunderstood and that the proper understanding of the term casts Christianity in a whole new light. [This is Part 1 of a two part series.]

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**October 23, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Carol Guither

Just as the term "repent" has been grossly misunderstood, so, too, has the concept of "the kingdom of heaven." And, just as a proper understanding of the term "repent" casts Christianity in a whole new light, so, too, does a proper understanding of the concept of "the kingdom of heaven." [This is Part 2 of a two part series.]

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**October 30, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**Sermon:** *"Persona non grata: The Masks We Wear"*

**Worship Leader:** Dr. Alexander Riegel

**Worship Associate:** Chuck Palmer

The root of the English term "personality" is from the Latin, "persona." In Latin, the term means "mask, character played by an actor." With this in mind, we will revisit Shakespeare's claim that "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players..."

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**Can't make Sunday Service?**

**Recordings are made available on our website.**

**Visit [www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services](http://www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services) to watch at any time!**

Alexander's Meander





*I once spoke to my friend, an old squirrel, about the Sacraments —  
he got excited and ran into a hollow in his tree  
and came back holding some acorns, an owl feather,  
and a ribbon he had found.  
I just smiled and said,  
“Yes, dear, you understand:  
everything imparts His grace.”*

*— St. Francis*

Lost in the tumult of our human life: the economy, politics, this pandemic, war, etc., our vision can become so blurred that we can fail to see the beauty in life. Consequently, we can fail to see life's sacred depths.

Autumn is my favorite time of year, mostly for the beauty of it. It is this time of year that I feel most aligned with those Cotswold nature mystics who turned from Biblical literalism to find God as revealed in nature.

So, as the challenges of our modern life blur our vision, I encourage you, this autumn, to turn again to nature. Refresh your soul. Imbibe the sacred depths.



Commune...

*Namaste,*

*Alex*



Our GPUC youth are our blessing! Our youth are going to Boston in June 2023. The fundraising has begun, and you will be seeing posters, news articles, bake sales, things to purchase, Buddha bowl dinner, spaghetti dinner event and more. The youth of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church are planning their trip to Boston to learn more about our faith and the cradle of our early heritage as a nation. Any student in 6th grade through 12th grade is eligible to join the trip. They must be registered in the Religious Education Program.

Why do we plan a Boston trip? A trip to Boston can help to make our liberal heritage a real part of the lives for our youth and parents. A youth group trip to Boston can be fun, help build community, and be a great learning experience for all involved. They will visit the downtown Unitarian Universalist churches where important historical events occurred, see the public statues of our heroes, the graves of our forebears, and visit the UUA and the staff. The students will also choose from a list of other events such as a boat ride in the Boston Harbor, a baseball game, a trip to Quincy Market or Chinatown, a stroll through the Boston Public Gardens, a visit to the New England Aquarium, the USS Constitution, or Harvard University, a theater outing, or the Paul Revere House Tour. Tours and historical sites aren't the only ways they will learn on the trip. They will learn to talk with new friends, respect the boundaries of others when all are tired and hungry, make decisions as a group, and figure out how to handle being away from home.

If you are interested in helping our students go to Boston 2023, step up and let us know. They are looking for donations now for their Buddha Bowl Dinner and would love some help. Think and Act Boston 2023!

The cost of the supplies for the Buddha Bowl Dinner are listed below. If you would like to donate the cost of the supplies, please let us know. The Buddha Bowl Dinner will be held, Sunday, Nov. 6, with 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. seatings. Our very own **Rev. Alex and Rev. Kimi** will be our chefs and our students the servers. Please make your reservations. **The cost for a dinner will be \$10 for 11 and under for students and \$15 for everyone 12 to 100!!**

Please RSVP by clicking



here.

### Cost of Buddha Bowl Dinner Supplies

- Buddha bowls-\$70
- Rice-\$30
- Chicken-\$100
- Vegetables-\$150
- Drinks-\$40

### Religious Education Lessons

- Nursery open every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon
- Students will start in the church on October 9 and 23 and then go to class
- October 30th during the church service our students will be **Trick or Treating for Make-A-Wish-Michigan**
- Buddha Bowl Dinner in the annex on Sunday, November 6.



*"The fields are harvested and bare,  
And Winter whistles through the square.  
October dresses in flame and gold,  
like a woman afraid of growing old."  
— Anne Mary Lawler*

Peace,  
Julie Artis,  
Director of Religious Education

## GPUC Religious Education Book Loan Program

Interested in reading more about Unitarian  
Universalism for adults?

Would you like to read more books  
about UU for children?

Learn about our history, spiritual growth,  
our hymns, our search for free and  
responsible truth and meaning.

Email Julie Artis, Director of  
Religious Education to request  
a list of Religious Education  
books in our library. [julieartis@hotmail.com](mailto:julieartis@hotmail.com)

Announcements, Upcoming Programs And Events

## Board Buzz

My name is Tonya Wells, and I am delighted to serve this congregation as the GPUC Board

President. Just as a reminder, the following congregants serve as your Board members, too:

**Ann Lipsitz**, Vice President, Administration

**Kathy Konwiak**, Vice President, Programs

**Maurya Kay**, Secretary

**Rudy Wedenoja**, Treasurer

**Jenevieve Lilly**, Board member

**Jeremiah Hess**, Board member

Please reach out to any of us about ideas or concerns that you have about GPUC. We are ready to listen, and we also welcome you to participate in our monthly meetings. We meet at 7 PM in the church library on the third Tuesday of each month for the rest of 2022.

At the worship service on October 2nd, Maurya Kay and Karen Webb will roll out our growth strategy to the congregation. The premise of our growth hinges on the simple premise that if we deepen our connections in the community through increased interactions, our membership will grow. Following the growth strategy presentation, we look forward to your participation in a survey to ensure your perspectives will be included in our approach to this work.

*Tonya Wells*

*GPUC Board President*

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Sunday, October 2nd, 2022 9AM-2PM

## Macomb Pharmacy & Wellness Vaccine Clinic

GPUC will host Macomb Pharmacy to provide the community with their yearly Flu Shot as well as Covid-19 Vaccinations, Boosters and Bivalent Boosters for those eligible.

This event is open to the public!  
Vaccinations are free of charge.

PLEASE VISIT: [bit.ly/gpucvax22](https://bit.ly/gpucvax22) or  
scan the QR Code to RSVP!



**GROSSE POINTE UNITARIAN CHURCH**  
**17150 MAUMEE AVE.**  
**GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230**

[Click here to RSVP for the Vaccine Clinic](#)

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### GPUC Steeple Roof Renovation

Starting October 3rd, the Lutz Roofing company will be repairing the flat sections of the steeple roof. The work will take approximately 10 days (**Oct. 3rd to Oct. 12th**). Lutz will be using ladders and a lift to access the roof on the south side of the sanctuary roof near the chimney. Lutz will try to minimize the disturbance around the sanctuary by storing material on the roof. Lutz will utilize several parking spots in our lot to store material during construction.

The work may be noisy at times. Anyone with planned activities for the garden, patio area or sanctuary should be aware of the possible construction noise and disturbance. Outside of the construction noise, Lutz will plan their work such that the garden and patio can still be used during construction.

I am looking forward to a leak free sanctuary! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I plan to be on site at the church most days during the roof repair.



Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church



Adult Religious Education

## GPUC Fall Speakers Series

*All events live, in person in the GPUC Sanctuary, no Zoom option*

- **Oct. 13: Science vs. Mysticism**  
*Rev. Alex Riegel and Professor Bill Moore debate*
- **Oct. 20: Literature and Life**  
*Professor Jerry Herron lecture*
- **Oct. 27: Water Art**  
*Freda Giblin lecture using resources of the DIA*
- **Nov. 3: League of Women Voters Forum**
- **Nov. 10: Unlocking Sufi Poetry**  
*Rev. Alex Riegel lecture*

**These are weekly events, from 7:30-9:00pm** (hour presentation followed by Q&A)  
ARE will provide bottled water for participants

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church | 17150 Maumee Grosse Pointe, MI 48230  
phone: 313-881-0420 | email: [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com) | web: [gpuuc.org](http://gpuuc.org)

[Click here to learn more about our Fall Speaker Series](#)

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### ***Ideas Wanted!***

The Adult Religious Education Committee needs your help. Tell us what you want to see on the ARE schedule this Fall. What kinds of events would you attend? What programs would attract more folks to GPUC? Is it movie discussions, lectures, tours, book talks, writing workshops, fieldtrips? You tell us, and we'll try to make it happen!



Please let us have your suggestions by Friday, June 3. Kindly forward ideas to Rev. Alex and Jerry Herron (chair of the ARE Committee): [alexgpuc@gmail.com](mailto:alexgpuc@gmail.com); [Jerry.Herron@wayne.edu](mailto:Jerry.Herron@wayne.edu).



### **Book Discussion Group News Tuesday, October 18th, at 6 pm**

The book selections, meeting dates, and discussion leaders for the 2022-23 season are complete, and the list has been sent to all active members of the discussion group. Any non-members wanting the list and/or wanting to join the group should contact Juli Moore ([jdmoore1415@gmail.com](mailto:jdmoore1415@gmail.com)).

The next gathering of the group will be October 18th at 6 pm in the church Annex. Robin Ramsay will lead a discussion of Ray Bradbury's Dandelion Wine.

*All are welcome.*

**Grosse Pointe  
Unitarian Church**  
*presents*

**A Live & Streaming Concert**  
**Saturday, October 22**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**Tickets: \$20 presale**  
**\$25 @ the door**  
**\$10 virtual**

Featuring *Danse*  
*Macabre, Malaguena,*  
Ravel, Mozart, Bach...  
Music to be Ghoulish  
Spanish, Chinese  
Symphonic, Excited,  
and Relaxed by...

*You can purchase tickets*  
*from the church website:*  
<http://gpuuc.org/concerts>

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

# DUELING PIANOS

VI  
**ANNE ROBERTS**  
&  
**JOSEPH  
PALAZZOLO**

**Grosse Pointe  
Unitarian Church**  
17150 Maumee  
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230  
313-881-0420  
email: [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com)  
web: [gpuuc.org](http://gpuuc.org)

**Click Here to Purchase  
Tickets**

## **UU Information Meeting**

A New UU Information meeting for all interested visitors and newcomers to Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church will be held on **Sunday, October 30th, at 12:00 pm, after the service**. We will meet in the Church Library. Light refreshments will be offered.

Plan to attend this event to hear about the church's religious education opportunities for both children and adults. Find out about ways to be involved with church book clubs, PFLAG, our Social Justice committee, or enjoying fellowship. Let us know how your life's journey led to



GPUC. Ask questions you may have about joining our church.

Please RSVP your interest in attending this meeting to our church office administrator, Ameera Bandy, at: [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com).

You may also email our Membership Chair, Sonja Franchett, for additional information: [skrfranchett@gmail.com](mailto:skrfranchett@gmail.com).

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**UU Ministry for Earth is preparing for the year ahead!** In October, we are excited to announce a series of upcoming programs and save the dates, share our new annual report and program calendar, and offer opportunities for embodiment, empowerment, and engagement to pursue climate justice.

**CLICK to visit the UUMFE October events web page**

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## Giving Made Easy Thanks to Breeze!

Whether you are looking to pay toward your pledge, register for RE or just making a donation to the church, Breeze makes donating so easy that you can do it from the comfort of your couch.

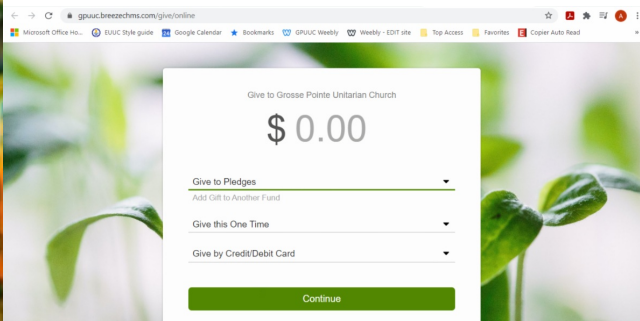
Breeze's checkout module gives you the options of donating using ***Credit/Debit Cards or an ACH Payment directly from your bank account.***

Upon checking out, ***Breeze will give you the option to cover the processing fee.*** The processing fee will provide you with credit towards your total tax-deductible giving for the year and will help us retain every bit of your donation.

Another awesome feature of using Breeze is that you can set up recurring transactions so that you never have to worry about falling behind on your pledge!

If you have any questions about Breeze or how to get started with Automatic Payments, please feel free to reach out to Ameera via email at [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com).

Thank you!



**Click Here To Give Now!**



# GPUC Lay Pastoral Committee Caring Hands Up



The Committee offers hope and help to our members through empathetic compassionate support, helping hands, and caring friendship. Please contact the committee chairs, Ameera or Reverend Alex if you are in need of support.

## Committee Members

**Chairperson:** Debbie Connelly

**Co-Chairs:** Carol Ghesquire, Lynn Rehahn  
Margo Bishop  
Susie Boynton  
Karin Garrett  
Lynn Baker-Hunter

JoAnn Kelly  
Linda Lawrence  
Mary Morshead  
Kathleen Ruhl  
Janet Weber

## RESALE SHOP NEWS!!!

The GPUC Resale Shop is looking for a church member to act as a third person to share the weekly leadership responsibilities now handled by co-chairs Margo Bishop and Malo Villareal. This position includes responsibility for opening and closing The Shop on Wednesdays, evaluating incoming donations and consignments, assigning work to volunteers, pricing merchandise, and clearing the work room at the end of the day.





For more information and to respond to this unique opportunity to help our church, please contact Margo Bishop (contact info in the church directory) or visit The Shop on Wednesday between 9 am and 3 pm. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Shop has a record amount of merchandise and would like to remind all donors that **weekly donations are limited to two small boxes OR two small bags**. Drop off your donations on Wednesdays from 9 am - 2 pm and stay to shop with us from 10 am – 3 pm.

*Thank you! Come shop with us!*

***Check out our very own Ameera looking fabulous in her Resale Shop fashions!  
We are the friendliest Shop in town!***



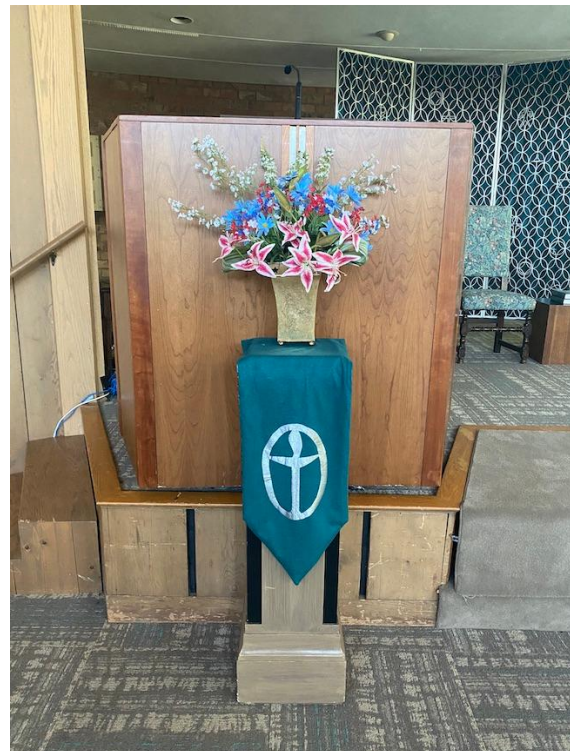
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### Sunday Morning Flowers

Now that we are having in-person services, we are resuming having flowers to add to the ambience of the Sanctuary on Sunday morning.

We welcome donations for flowers on Sunday mornings. Take a moment to recognize or honor someone dear or to commemorate a special occasion by providing fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. You can make arrangements to bring your own flowers or a monetary donation and someone from the Flower Committee will purchase flowers and make a beautiful arrangement. Please use the insert in the Sunday order of service or contact the church office and sign-up for a Sunday or two.

If you have questions, please feel free to email or call the church office at [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com) or (313) 881-0420. Thank you for sharing your remembrances of special occasions and important people in your life.





## Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

GPUC is a regular contributor to Crossroads East, the local branch of the social services nonprofit Crossroads. Next time you're grabbing groceries, please consider picking up a few nonperishable items for our FOOD SHARING collection. Or, if you prefer, monetary donations are extremely helpful. As we all know, grocery money does not stretch nearly as far these days. We use the money we receive to purchase produce, milk, eggs, and bread for Crossroads East's clients. Our donations are always greatly appreciated by the staff and clients!

***Our donations are always greatly appreciated by the staff and clients!***

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

## CHURCH HISTORY UPDATE

GPUC historian Janet Weber is in the process of updating the church history published in 2013. She asks that *if you have items of current or historical church interest or you or a family member of the church has received notice in local papers or magazines, please pass them on. Place in the historians mailbox in the church office or mail to her.* She will gladly take current or past information.

## 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**

**Go to: <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>**



## 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/>. You can also catch him on Instagram @iamdavidkessler and through his amazing podcast Healing with David Kessler on Spotify. <https://grief.com/podcasts/>.

Tender Hearts grief support group <https://www.davidkesslertraining.com/tenderhearts>.

**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.

Photo by Milada Vigerova on Unsplash

#### Contact information:

**Rebekah Agnew, LLPC**

**Gilda's Club Metro Detroit: Lake House Location**

An affiliate of the Cancer Support Community

**Program Manager**

Email: [ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org](mailto:ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org)

## Gentle Yoga

### Weekly Gentle Yoga

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

This is a 60 minute gentle yoga session that occurs every Thursday from 4:30 - 5:30pm with Carol Guither virtually via Zoom.

Session theme will be **announced weekly**.

If you have a mat, blocks and a strap (or necktie) that is helpful but you don't need anything except a clean space to lie, sit and stand on.



Please make sure you are honoring your own level of activity and flexibility. Make any

adjustments you need. The yoga "mantra" always is "honor your own body". If it's not comfortable, don't do it.

***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 6, 13, 20 & 27**

**Contact Information**

**Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church**

**17150 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230**

**Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9AM - 3PM**

**Phone: 313-881-0420 Fax: 313-881-6430**

**Email: [officegpuc@gmail.com](mailto:officegpuc@gmail.com)**

**Website: [gpuuc.org](http://gpuuc.org)**

**Editor: Kathleen Ruhl [newslettergpuc@gmail.com](mailto:newslettergpuc@gmail.com)**

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