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Welcome! You have found a beacon of liberal religious and spiritual exploration serving the Grosse Pointes and the surrounding east side communities.

Reverend Mitra Rahnema

October 2023

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Mark your calendars and please submit your

contribution to the next newsletter by

Saturday, October 21st

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

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 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 4PM.

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.

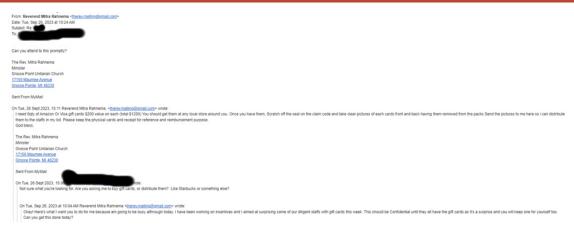
Click Here For Current COVID 19 Policy

Rev. Mitra Rahnema's 'Ambiguity' Article



To get a sense of Rev. Mitra, check out her 'Ambiguity' article, which is taken from our GPUC Facebook page.

Scam Emails Going Around



We have been informed of a potential phishing scam going around using the name of our current minister, Rev. Mitra Rahnema. Please do not respond to any emails that do not come from Mitra Directly. Her GPUC email is:

mitraingp@gmail.com

PLEASE IGNORE ANY EMAIL THAT IS NOT FROM THIS EMAIL ADDRESS.

Just as a reminder, Mitra would not send out any emails soliciting funds or gift cards for the church. Please keep this in mind and as always, if it seems suspicious, please reach out to the office and Ameera will do her best to assist you.

How to Spot Phishing in Emails Article - GPUC Newsletter March 2023

Upcoming Services

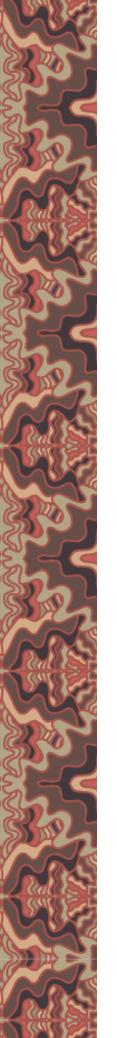
October 1, 2023

10:30 AM

Sermon: "What Worship Means To Me"

Worship Leaders: Reverend Mitra Rahnema, Chuck Palmer, Anne Roberts For Unitarian Universalists, worship can be a complicated notion. What are we worshipping? Today we consider what worship means to us and why it matters.

We're so sorry to share that Rev. Mitra was exposed to Covid-19, while out of state on Sunday morning, September 24. She is currently testing negative but as a safety measure, she will not be able to join and lead in worship with us on October 1. Worship continues on with the leadership of your beloved fellow community members. Come join together to consider what worship means to you.



October 8, 2023 10:30 AM

Sermon: "Beloveds"

Worship Leader: Rev. Mitra Rahnema
Worship Associate: Carol Guither

Perhaps you have talked about beloved community. Well, as national coming out day nears, we unwrap the notion of beloved and explore the building blocks of the beloved life.

This service is inspired by a favorite hip hop artist, Michael Franti, whose song "Stay Human" reminds us that "all the freaky people make the beauty of the world." Take a listen on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb03HQ0Ar-4

October 15, 2023 10:30 AM

Sermon: "Interpretations of Grace"
Worship Leader: Rev. Mitra Rahnema
Worship Associate: John Engstrom

Grace might be a description, a characteristic, a name, a divine gift, or an extension of love and trust we can offer one another. Today we examine the many ways we come to know amazing grace and how it can help us deepen our religious selves.

October 22, 2023 10:30 AM

Sermon: "Being Brave"

Worship Leader: Reverend Mitra Rahnema
Worship Associate: Meghan Boomhauer

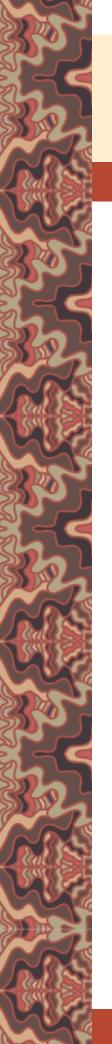
What does "being brave" mean to our ethical and spiritual lives? How can we be brave individually and as a congregation? Let us consider rising up and being brave in our world today.

October 29, 2023 10:30 AM

Sermon: "TBD"

Worship Leader: Chuck Palmer
Worship Associate: Carol Guither

TBD.



Can't make Sunday Service? Recordings are made available on our website. Visit www.gpuuc.org/virtual-services to watch at any time!

Mitra's Musings



As October arrives, and the season has clearly changed, we are officially in Fall. I have a new feeling of vigor that comes with cooler days. It's like, as the trees become active, so do we – turning our leaves in the wind and changing our colors. This is a season of movement and energy. This month, I will be in Grosse Pointe full time and look forward to sinking into the patterns of congregational community and spending more time with you.

In my brief September time, you might have heard me use the word transparency. In society, we hear this idea a lot – and it is, of course, nuanced in practice. At its

most obvious, it is about seeing through the fronting presentations of our lives. It is about open and honest communication – without secrets. It requires a level of bravery and inclusion that can be noble.

But, that is not all. Because, transparency does not mean everyone knows everything. There are times of appropriate privacy. Without privacy in society, we would not know respect, safety, and grace. Respect, safety, and grace for ourselves, for one another, and in our processes. When privacy is called for, we can share the what and why of what is kept confidential, hopefully building trust.

Therefore, transparency is a delicate dance. Simply put: no secrets and some privacy.

This Fall, as I activate my ministry, I hope to increase the opportunities for this precious transparent dance. This includes an open heart to everyone – long term members and newcomers alike. In this spirit, one of the first things I am planning is time for us to chat. Everyone is invited to a church chat! Join in conversation about whatever is on your mind. We can talk about the church happenings, we can talk about the world, we can talk about our faith. You can share thoughts or ask questions. I will be open to it all. I am also bringing some wine to share – feel free to bring something too. This is a casual chat – an opportunity for us all to get on the same page about what the community is wondering or thinking about.

Mark your calendars for three Fireside Church Chats: Thursdays Oct. 12th, Nov. 16th, Dec. 14th 6:30 - 8pm: In the gallery (where the fireplace is)

As we sink into the congregational year, I will do my best to keep you updated on what is happening and encourage others to do the same. And of course, if you have any questions or comments please send them my way (mitraingp@gmail.com). I am here to stabilize our congregational health and in doing so I am deeply honored to be spending this time with you.

With love, Mitra





The Religious Education classes are in full swing and this year our lessons are on Abrahamic Faiths. 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. On Sunday, October 29 we will ask the students to come in costume. You will be able to see all the students in their fun costumes as they greet you in the church with their **Make a Wish-Michigan** bags. Please bring coins and paper money to give to **Make a Wish-Michigan**.

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.

So remember, bring your funds on Sunday, October 29 to put into the **Make a Wish** bags. When you give to others you give to yourself and your family.



All students and their families are asked to attend the Juniors' Spaghetti Lunch on Sunday, November 5th right after church. The funds from the Spaghetti Lunch will go towards events for the Jr/Sr students. **Tickets are** available online, in the lobby before and after church

and at the door on November 5th. Adults tickets are \$12. Students 10 years old and under are \$8. This is an afternoon of fun, good food and fellowship. See you all on Sunday, November 5th. The students are looking for sponsors!! We want to start the meal with a zero debt. If you would like to sponsor the lunch you can help by sending a check to cover the salad materials for \$130, the sauce for \$100, bread & pasta for \$60, beverages for \$40 and dessert for \$40. Please support our students by attending the event with your family and friends.

The GPUC nursery will be open at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. A pot of coffee is in the RE wing for our parents to enjoy and share conversation with others.

Dates to Remember



Sunday, October 29 at 11:30 a.m. Trick or Treat for Make A Wish-Michigan in the church right after the service. Remember to wear your costume.

Sunday, November 5 (right after church), Juniors' Spaghetti Lunch

There are two lasting bequests we can give our children.

One is roots.

The other is wings.

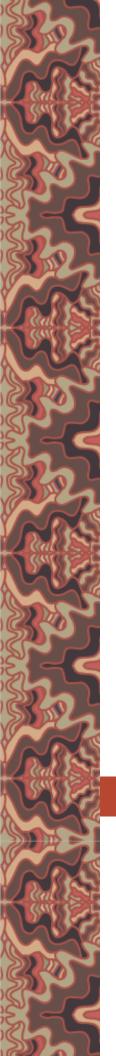
— Hodding Carter, Jr.

Peace,

Julie Artis,

Director of Religious Education

Click For The Spaghetti Lunch RSVP Form



Hire a Teen







Do you have a task to much for you and need help?

Do we have the help for you!

Contact Julie Artis at: 313-590-2464

julieartis@hotmail.com

\$20.00 hr

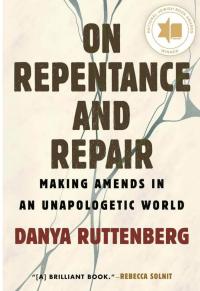
Announcements, Upcoming Programs And Events

UU Common Read begins Fall 2023

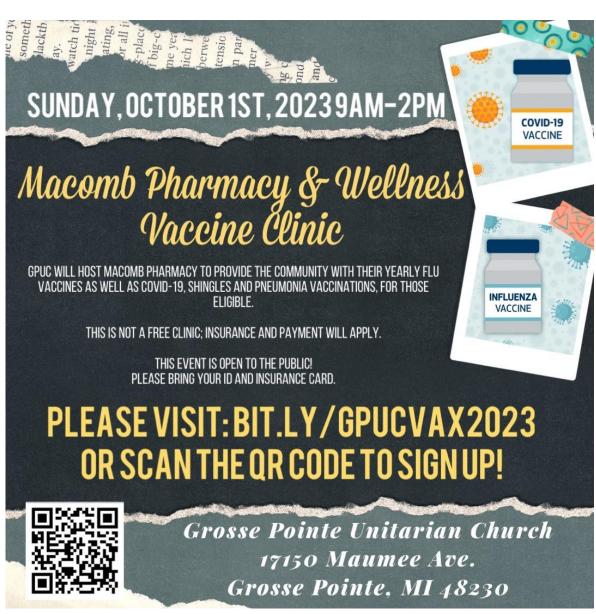
This Year's UU Common Read "On Repentance and Repair" proposes a practice of accountability for hurt we may cause in our relationships, our communities, or as part of global/systemic harms.

Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's book shares wisdom based on the 12th c. writings of Maimonides.



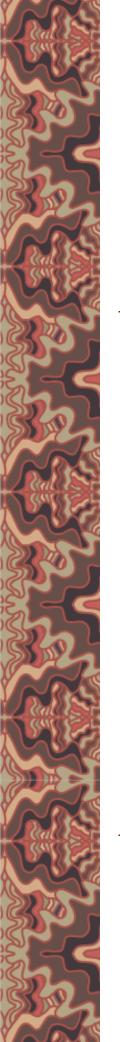


Find Workshop 1 and more resources for this Common Read at https://www.uua.org/read



Click This Link To Sign Up And Receive Forms

Book Discussion Group News

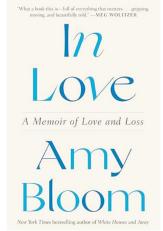


Tuesday, October 10, at 6 p.m.

For October, the group will read *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* by Amy Bloom, and Mary Zahler will facilitate. We will meet in person at the church in the Annex at 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 10th.

Check the church website for the 2023-2024 schedule of books for the rest of the season. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. (Note the change.)

Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Kathy Kuehn (kgkkuehn@gmail.com).



Click Here For The 2023-24 Reading List

Let's Fireside chat!

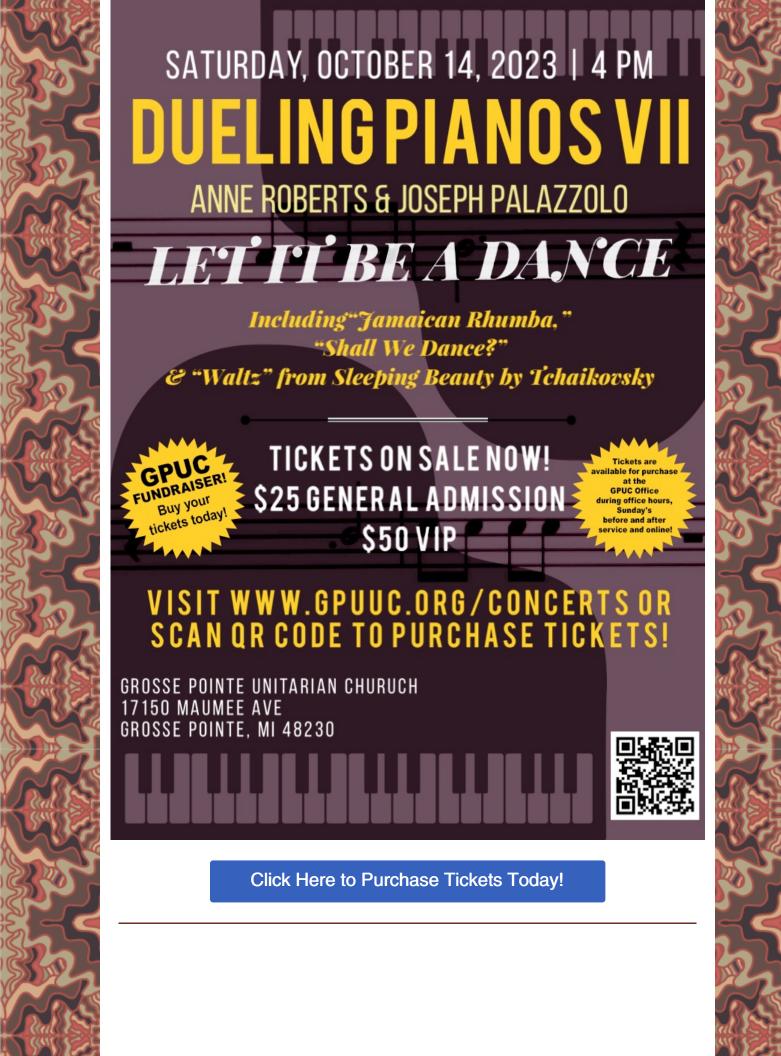


Let us talk, listen, and maybe even laugh a little.

Once a month: Thursdays, Oct. 12th, Nov. 16th, Dec. 14th, 6:30 - 8pm in the gallery.

Do you want to talk about what's happening in the church, or what the minister is thinking about, or Unitarian Universalist faith, or things happening in our larger community? Do you have questions, comments, or concerns to lift up? Come share what is on your mind and/or ask questions at this informal evening community conversation.

Rev. Mitra will bring a bottle of wine to share — feel free to bring something too. Let us talk, listen, and maybe even laugh a little. Let's chat!



Now Announcing: A new Michigan jazz series!



celebrating traditional jazz

& the Great American Songbook

Every first Sunday at 4PM.



Hosted by Olivia Van Goor & the Scott Gwinnell Trio

+ Monthly Special Guests

October 1



Dave Bennett

November 5



Isis Damil

December 3



Emma Aboukasm

Questions? Visit Tickets available on Eventbrite.com or \$20 cash at the door www.oliviavangoor.com/jazzatgpuc

TICKET LINKS BELOW

Oct 1 with Dave Bennett

Nov 5 with Isis Damil

Dec 3 with Emma Aboukasm

Olivia Van Goor's Website

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Registration Form

Please <u>register online</u> if possible.



Use this QR code or go to https://tinyurl.com/2dkvdea3

Name
Email Address
Phone
Congregation
Lodging _ I need a single room (limited availability) _ I'd like to room with the following 2-4 people
Special Diet _ Vegetarian _ Vegan Gluten Free _ Other
Additional Details _ I have life-threatening allergies to
_ I carry an epi-pen at all times. _ I have accessibility challenges. (We'll contact you for details.) _ I'm 14-17 years old, coming with an adult. Adult sponsor:
Registration Fee & Scholarships The full fee is due at registration. Registering early helps us meet attendee minimums. Registration is refundable (less \$25 admin fee) with 2 weeks notice or in case of illness.
Full weekend \$170 Full weekend (ages 14-25) \$125 Saturday-only \$125
_ I need a scholarship. I can pay \$ _ I can include an extra \$ for scholarships.
Paying by Check Make check payable to First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor Memo: 2023 WomUUn's Retreat
Paying by Credit / Debit Card Use Realm to send your payment



UUAA WOMUUN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

This year, our retreat focuses again on finding joy. We invite attendees to seek out joy through connection with themselves, each other, and the natural world.

Rekindle old friendships and form new ones. Connect with women* of all ages. Step back from the daily grind to relax and reflect in a peaceful setting. Rejoice in the warmth of the campfire.

* All WomUUn's Community activities are open to anyone with a marginalized gender identity, including non-binary or gender fluid folks, trans women, and trans men. We recognize our language is imperfect and welcome feedback.

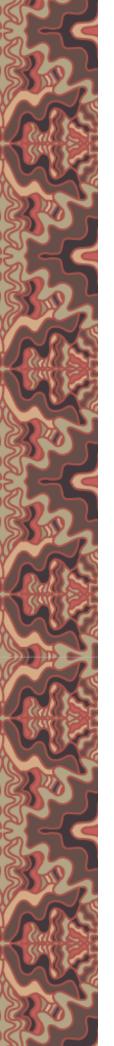
The retreat is also open to teens ages 14-17, with an adult sponsor. This sponsor does not need to be a parent.

Newcomers... New UU Meeting and Lunch November 5th

There will be a Newcomers meeting, a New UU get-together, on Nov. 5th, at 11:45 A.M. in the church library, right after the service. All are welcome! We can share stories about how our life journeys all ended up meeting at GPUC. You can learn

more about our church programs and religious education, as well as our spiritual and learning community. Ask any questions you may have for Rev. Mitra Rahnema or other long-time church members.





After about an hour, we will walk to the Annex for a special church social spaghetti lunch, prepared by our Religious Education students for the congregation. Child care will be provided for the meeting and children are welcome to be part of the lunch.

We hope to see you on Nov. 5th! Please RSVP your "yes" attendance to our office administrator, Ameera Bandy, at officegpuc@gmail.com.

Weekly Gentle Yoga

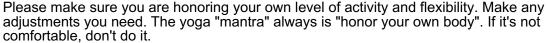
THURSDAYS 4:30-5:30PM (EST, US and Canada)

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

Session themes are announced weekly on Wednesdays.

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.

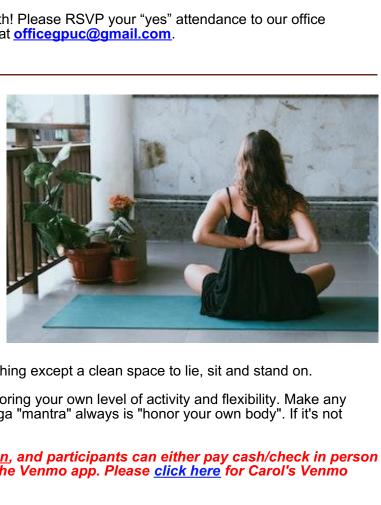


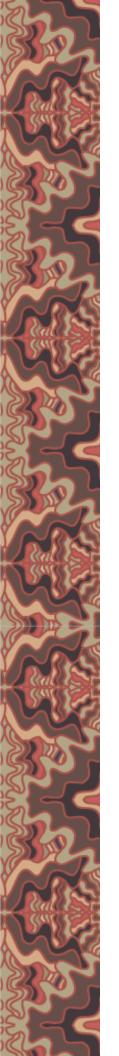
Cost will be \$5.00 per session, and participants can either pay cash/check in person for each session, or pay by the Venmo app. Please click here for Carol's Venmo information.

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 5, 12, 19 & 26





LAY PASTORAL

As we enter the Fall Season of the year let us remember to gently hold one another close in mind and heart.

The care committee is here for anyone in need of assistance. Please contact a committee member when needs arise.

Blessings to all from the committee:

Debbie Connelly, Chair

Margo Bishop

Susan Boynton

Karin Garrett

Carol Ghesquiere

Susan Hartz

JoAnn Kelly

Linda Lawrence

Mary Morshead

Kathleen Ruhl

Joy Spurr

Janet Weber

Autumn Time



The wind is playing autumn games
Through the gardens and the lanes.
Picking up, and swirling round
Leaves of orange, red and brown.

Gusting through each swaying tree,
Tossing apples till they're free.
Shaking conkers till they drop
And open wide with prickly pop.

The wind is dancing full of fun, Laughing in the autumn sun. It tumbles acorns, fir cones, leaves, To make a carpet under trees.





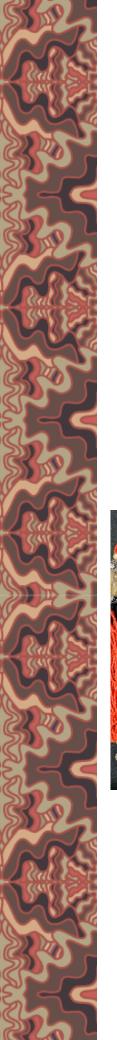


RESALE SHOP NEWS!!!

We would like to remind all donors that weekly donations are limited to two small boxes OR two small bags. We especially need donations of household items, treasures and trifles. We are open on Wednesdays, accepting merchandise from 9AM – 2PM. The sale rooms are open from 10AM – 3PM. Come visit us!

RESALE SHOP NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We decided it's time to have our own Instagram account



where we'll be able to feature vintage & seasonal displays, special event days, monthly bag day in the clearance room, and much more!!

Volunteer Christina initiated this account and has currently achieved 153 GP Unitarian Resale Shop followers!!! Thank you Christina...you ROCK!!!

Follow so you don't miss a thing at this great space in our community!!!



Click For Important Guidelines ...

Click to find us on Instagram or Scan the QR code below





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.

that you never have to worry about falling behind on your pledge! Thank you! \$ 0.00 Detroit social services nonprofit Crossroads. church for transport to Crossroads. **Crossroads staff! Thank you!** 1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs ground beef. milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks. 2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for 15. Butter or margarine is nice too. cereal which they also get a lot of. 16. Eggs are a real commodity.

Another awesome feature of using Breeze is that you can set up recurring transactions so

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.

Click Here To Give Now!

Crossroads East: Second Sunday Food Share Ongoing

As part of our social justice outreach, GPUC is continually accepting donations for the

As all of us are aware, inflation has been high and many people are struggling. If you are interested and able, please bring your donations of nonperishables and hygiene items to

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, we also purchase perishables such as milk, eggs, bread and produce. Our donations are always gratefully received by

- 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
- 14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.

- 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.

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 or (313) 881-0420. Thank you for sharing your remembrances of special occasions and important people in your life.



HOLLY FAIRS...CHURCH HISTORY UPDATE

Church historian and archivist, Janet Weber, is putting together a file about the Holly Fairs that were produced from 1965 to 1994 mostly by the women of the church and were important fund raisers making \$11,793 in that final year. If you have saved any flyers, news articles, or other items from that time as well as information about the Women's Alliance that was so critical in producing these fairs, and you're willing to part with it, now's the time!! Bring to the church office and place in the historians mail box.

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

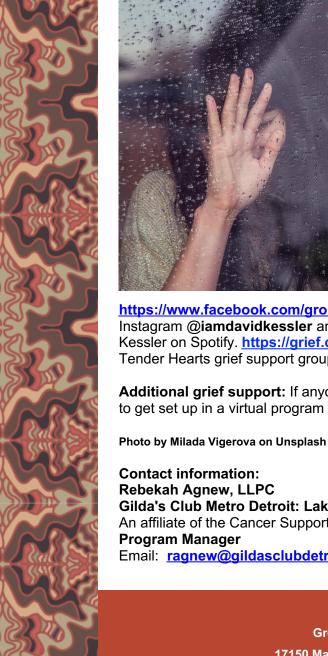
Go to: https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow

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/. 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.

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit: Lake House Location

An affiliate of the Cancer Support Community

Email: ragnew@gildasclubdetroit.org

Contact Information

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9AM - 3PM

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Email: officegpuc@gmail.com

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Editor: Kathleen Ruhl newslettergpuc@gmail.com

Background Pattern Design by Kathleen Ruhl

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