

The Grosse Pointe Unitarian

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
17150 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
Phone: 313-881-0420 Fax: 313-881-6430
Email: gpuc@gpuc.us Website: www.gpuc.us

Reverend Shelley Page, Minister
Email: revshelley@gpuc.us

VOLUME LXII, Number 5
October 23, 2011

Editor: Tom Roberts
newsletter@gpuc.us

October 30, 2011

10:30 AM

We Remember Them

Reverend Shelley Page Cynthia Luce, Worship Associate

We pause at this time of year to remember those who have passed on. As the natural world dies back to prepare for winter, we are reminded of our own mortality and the loss of those who have gone before us. You are invited to bring photos and mementos of your loved ones for our Community Altar of Remembrance. Remember to bring your spare change for the traditional UNICEF trick-or-treating celebration with our children.

November 6, 2011

10:30 AM

In ? We Trust

Reverend Shelley Page Jim Moir, Worship Associate

In what do we trust when life brings us more than we can handle? Let us gently explore what it means to trust in something beyond ourselves.

November 13, 2011

10:30 AM

A Search for what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist

Joseph Buttiglieri Cynthia Luce, Worship Associate

(See page 5 for a description of the service.)



Wanderings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

There's a party here Friday night and I sure do hope you'll join us! We'll share food, good conversation and play some fun "party games." And while we're enjoying each other's company, we'll be doing something very important—starting off on a vision quest. When a new minister arrives in town, it's natural for a congregation to wonder what's next and where they're headed. It's a perfect time to step back and consider all of the things we love about GPUC - the "good stuff" that we want to keep going. It's also a perfect time to step forward with the hopes, dreams and visions of where we'd like to go, and of what we see ourselves doing together in the years to come.

It's true that each of you could write your thoughts on a piece of paper, and that we could collect them all and read them. But we are an intentional faith community, and we have made a covenant to walk together into the future. There's magic in hearing the dreams of your friends and then adding your own special visions to the mix. We are so much more together than all of us are as individuals. This Friday night's gathering is designed to give us an enjoyable and easy way to build our common vision. Our "Imagining Our Future" party is just a start of what will be an inclusive process that will guide us through our future together. We'll see where the energy is, what amazing ideas are brought forth and what is most precious to us in this community.

Quite honestly, all of our voices and visions are not only welcome, but needed at the table. It doesn't matter if you've been a member for 50 years or have just recently starting attending our worship services. We value the voices of experience and the vision of the newcomer. And we'd really love to have our junior and senior youth add their voices as well. Please come one and come all, as we start this quest.

Some of you may have obligations that will find you elsewhere on Friday night. Know that this will be just a starting point and that you can offer your visions as we go along in our process. But, please do join us on Friday, if you possibly can. I promise that it will be a great time!

Here's a reminder about the details: Friday, October 28th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. First is the Potluck dinner - let Jill Crane know what you're bringing and how many people from your family will be attending. Next we'll have the "Imagining Our Future" activities with Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley, our Heartland District Executive from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Child care will be available for children 10 and under after the dinner. See you there!

Blessings,
Reverend Shelley Page



Religious Education Lessons

Religious Education News

At the end of the church service on October 30, 2011, the Religious Education students will be **Trick or Treating** for **UNICEF**. The **United Nations Children's Fund** or **UNICEF** was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946. In November, 1989, the United Nations adopted 54 principles that make up the Rights of the Child. Each day 21,000 children die, and **UNICEF** is doing everything they can to reduce child mortality. Many Americans rarely worry about the issues which cause many of these children to die. **UNICEF** provides child immunizations and vaccinations. The organization helps families with clean drinking water and sanitation and protects children against malaria. **UNICEF** participates in the fight against AIDS by caring for children affected by AIDS and by helping pregnant, infected women get the drugs they need to prevent transmission to their babies. Nourishment is provided to prevent malnutrition and **UNICEF** works to protect children from abuse, child exploitation and trafficking. **UNICEF** also strives to provide quality education for all children. The **Trick-or-Treat** orange box has become a tradition in North America since 1950. We are asking all congregation members to bring change and bills to place in the boxes as our GPUC students **Trick-or-Treat** for **UNICEF** on Sunday, October 30.

At the beginning of the 54 principles for the United Nations Children's Fund, the quote that describes the care offered to children says, "Whoever we are, wherever we live, these are the rights of every child under the sun and moon and the stars".

Religious Education Lessons:

Lower and Upper Elementary students will be Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF on Sunday, October 30. Please have your child bring or wear his or her costume to church. On Sunday, November 6th the students will continue their lessons on Hinduism.

Junior students will be studying *A Modern Religious Tale of Nature* on Sunday, October 30th and *Roslyn Chapel: Assimilating Celtic & Ancient European Religions* on Sunday, November 6th. Juniors will also be helping with the GPUC Auction on Sunday evening November 6th.

Senior students will be attending a UU youth gathering at Birmingham Unitarian Church on Sunday, October 30th at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Ottenhoff will be arranging rides to BUC. The seniors will be helping with the GPUC Auction at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 6th.

Dates to Remember:

November 20th -- RE Committee meeting

December 11th -- Holiday Pageant, "The Polar Express" (more to follow)

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

All Congregation Pot Luck

Please join us Friday, October 28th from 6:00 until 8:30 p.m. for an *All Congregation Pot Luck Supper* in the Sanctuary. If you have not signed up, please contact me either by phone (586) 779-7274 or via email at villajilla@sbcglobal.net; or you may call the church office. We need to know how many are attending, what food you're bringing and whether or not you need child care for children ages 10 years and under. We need to hear from you with this information by **Wednesday, October 25th**.

Spirit Play

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 4th, from 7:30 until 9p.m. as Rev. Shelley Page will present another Friday evening gathering called "Poetry From the Heart." As a group, we will create some poetry extemporarily, using fun and low-key activities. We'll also share spiritual poetry that could be meaningful to us in new and surprising ways. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer.

Unitarian Universalist Common Read

This year's selection is: "*Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*," by Eboo Patel. A remarkable account of growing up Muslim in America from one of the most prominent faith leaders in the United States, "*Acts of Faith*" is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people, and of the world-changing potential of an interfaith youth movement. The Unitarian Universalist Common Read encourages all UUs to read and discuss a single book. The 2010-2011 common read, "*The Death of Josseline*," spawned discussion groups and social action and heightened awareness of the challenges facing undocumented immigrants in the American Southwest. "*Acts of Faith*," will meet for two Mondays, **November 7 and 14** from 7:30 until 9pm at the church; John Artis will lead the discussion. For those of you who have already signed up, the books are in. Please contact Jill Crane to get your copy. Books are \$10 each and payment is required at the time of sale. We are hoping our teens will join us in reading and discussing this book! Until then, read and enjoy.

Sunday Morning Meditations, led by Zachariah Bobby, continue at 9:30 a.m. in the Religious Education wing. Child care is provided starting at 9:25 a.m. Zach asks that you bring comfortable clothes, an open mind and a cushion.

The Writing Workshop, facilitated by Mary Beth Smith and Pat Gillis, meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in the church library from 5 until 7p.m. Mark your calendars for November 7th and 21st. Bring your writings for discussion, and receive helpful hints, or just come and listen. Advance sign up is not necessary, but if you need child care, please make arrangements with Julie Artis in the RE Wing ahead of time.

New UU Classes Forming

Many folks who are new to our faith want to learn more about Unitarian Universalist history, theology, social justice, denominational matters, and simply what it means to be a UU. We are forming a six-session series of two-hour classes with Rev. Shelley to help you explore these issues. These sessions will be geared toward people who are new to our faith, and toward those considering membership. We will meet on a Sunday at noon, with lunch provided for a \$3 donation. There is a new sign-up sheet in the lobby, but if you have already signed, up, there's no need to do so again. We should know the start date by the time the next newsletter is distributed.

Women's Book Discussion Group

On Thursday, November 17th at 5:30 p.m., Audrey Brosowski will lead a discussion on Robert Travers' book, "*Anatomy of a Murder*" (448 pages). It is the story of Paul Biegler, a small town lawyer in the Upper Peninsula who takes on the case of Lieutenant Manion, charged with murder for shooting a local barkeeper. Based on the true story of a murder in Big Bay, Michigan, the novel is a fictionalized account of the trial. While there is no question that Manion shot Barney Quill, the novel examines whether the killing is justified and if Manion is truly blameworthy. All are welcome to join the discussion. Refreshment Assistants are Kelly Boll and Pi Irwin.

Men's Book Discussion Group

If you are interested in re-forming a Men's Book Discussion Group to meet (possibly) on Monday evenings, please indicate on a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact John Artis.

Child Care is available for all Adult Religious Enrichment Programs. Please sign up on appropriate sheets in the foyer and see **Julie Artis** in the RE Wing to arrange it.

Attending Adult Religious Enrichment events enlightens us and broadens our sense of fellowship.

Jill Crane, Director of Adult Religious Enrichment

November 13th Sermon Description

"A Search for what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist"

Let's open a dialogue about the seven principles and how Unitarian Universalists can attract new members and try to offer answers to living a meaningful life. We may not know all of the answers to life's questions. We may not even know the right questions, but UUs have an important role to play in the world.

-- Joseph Buttiglieri for the Lay Services Committee

Standing Up for Families and Kids

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit, East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) and the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) invite you to attend a workshop on "How Can Metro-Detroit Respond to Families Who Are Cut Off From Food and Public Assistance?" The Keynote Speaker will be Gilda Jacobs, President and CEO of the Michigan League for Human Services, www.milhs.org. The event is scheduled for Sunday, November 20, 2011, from 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. Registration is at 12:30 p.m., with lunch starting at 1:00 p.m. The program will start at 1:15 p.m. Please **RSVP by Thursday, November 10** by calling 248-549-5170 or registering online at www.uujustice.org. The event location is the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48201.

Highlights:

Keynote: Update on cuts in food and public assistance for Michigan families -- action strategies.

Panel Presentation: Local faith groups' actions to respond to families in crisis

Discussions: How can people of faith respond with advocacy and address human needs?

Light lunch and networking opportunities

\$5 suggested donation to help cover workshop expenses

-- Rev. Shelley

Concert with Carolyn Mc Dade

Beloved UU songwriter and singer, Carolyn Mc Dade, is coming to the Detroit area to launch the release of a new CD, *Widening Embrace*. The free concert with Carolyn and local singers will be held on Friday, November 18th at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, MI. at 7:30p.m. The concert is co-sponsored by the Green Sanctuary committee of BUC and by the Gaia Women of the Great Lakes Basin, who sing on the CD. Please see the flyer, posted in the foyer, about this concert. We hope you will take the opportunity to meet Carolyn and to hear this beautiful music calling us all to widen our embrace to include species, habitats, galaxies and new ideas. Proceeds from the sale of the CD at this concert will go to individuals, projects or organizations whose work is consistent with the Earth Charter (www.earthcharter.org).

-- Rev. Shelley

Scarab Club Program at GPUC

The scarab club will be present a program called Feast of Fools & More on Sunday, November 13th. Tickets will be on sale in the lobby on November 13th.

-- Mindy Fossati

Women's Alliance Speaker

On Tuesday, November 8, 2011, the Women's Alliance will have as its guest, GPUC's own John Artis who will speak about his new book, *"Floating Across a Life,"* an examination of John's experience as an educator in poetic form. The cost of the book is \$10 and John will bring copies to autograph. The book is also available through amazon.com. His daughter, Mycah, also has a chapter in the book told in poetry as a learner. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon and the cost is \$7.00. John will speak immediately following lunch. Save the date, Tuesday, November 8, 2011, for our special speaker, John Artis.

-- Phyllis Reeve for the Women's Alliance

Membership Committee News

The Membership Committee welcomes newcomers every week at the Visitors Table. You will be able to spot these visitors with our new stick on name tags. Wonderfully, we have been getting so many new visitors and continuing visitors that our green tags have taken over our storage box and are hard to keep alphabetized. We are therefore trying something new. Please look for the stick-on name tags with handwritten names and WELCOME A NEW FACE. Also, we are trying a new approach to our Newcomers' Circle. The Circles will be held with much more frequency and conducted by the members of the Membership Committee. Each Newcomer will go home with a folder with more information about our Unitarian Universalist principals and history, including lists of Religious Education activities, Adult Enrichment schedules, Outreach efforts and other volunteer activities that might be of interest. It will be a much more complete information package for visitors, who might like to become more quickly involved in other activities of the church. We hope that you will help us enhance these efforts as well. Committee members are Jane Hoey, Chair, Lynn Baker-Hunter, Nancy Cole, Pat Gillis, Ann Helm, and Mary Beth Smith.

-- Jane Hoey for the Membership Committee

November Newsletter Schedule

The next GPUC Newsletters will be published on the following dates: **November 13 and 27, 2011**

The deadline for submission of articles is at noon on the above publishing dates. Please send all articles to newsletter@gpuc.us

-- The GPUC Newsletter Editors