

The Grosse Pointe Unitarian

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
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December 24, 2011

5:30 PM

RING OUT, CHRISTMAS BELLS!

Reverend Shelley Page
Cynthia Luce, Worship Associate

Join us for a joyful Christmas Eve celebration with timeless stories, poetry and music, complete with candlelight and a child dedication. Bring some cookies to share!

December 25, 2011

10:30 AM

A QUIET JOYFUL MORNING

Reverend Shelley Page
Jim Moir, Worship Associate

We'll honor the spirit of Christmas with caroling, stories, and a time for quiet contemplation of the season.

January 1, 2012

10:30 AM

RING IN THE NEW!

Reverend Shelley Page
Tonya Wells, Worship Associate

Start the New Year off with a fresh perspective and renewed energy!

January 8, 2012

10:30 AM

HOW MAY I SERVE?

Reverend Shelley Page
Joseph Buttiglieri and Andrew Hartz, Worship Associates

What does it mean to serve as part of your spiritual practice? We'll explore the idea of serving and what it means in a faith community.



Wonderings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

We all know the story. It comes to us in carols, legends, art, drama and special readings at this time of year. We are surrounded by the Nativity with its timeless message of hope, speaking to us through the ages of our deep longings for a world made fair. It tells of a little child, born in humble circumstances, who grows up to be the savior of the world. And, yet, "each night a child is born is a holy night," penned Unitarian Universalist Sophia Lyon Fahs. Each child has the potential to save the world in his or her own way, whether growing up to be a great parent or acting on the world stage to bring more love-filled justice to our hurting planet. As Unitarian Universalists we recognize, nurture, and honor this spark of divinity in each person from the moment of birth until death.

Our commitment to nurturing our children's spiritual growth is one of the most important things we do as people of a liberal faith. I was so touched by the "I Believe" statements shared by our children at last week's Polar Express Holiday Pageant. Over and over again, I heard expressions of our deepest held values in their words. These *are* the children who will help to save the world with their love, compassion and commitment to justice seeking and respect for all creation. It is a testament to our Religious Education program, Unitarian Universalist parenting, and our entire faith community that our children can so boldly and sincerely proclaim their values.

You will see me continue to be a champion of learning across the generations, honoring the wisdom, energy, and ideas of our young people from babes to senior high youth. It will be my deep pleasure and honor to dedicate a child on Christmas Eve this year, and some other newly arrived souls as the year progresses. I will continue to include children in our weekly worship and offer opportunities for them to participate in creating worship. Four of our Juniors did a fabulous job in welcoming back the light just this morning at our Winter Solstice service. And today was the first Sunday for Andrew Hartz to serve as a Worship Associate-in-training, an opportunity for spiritual growth that we plan to offer to other youth over time. He did a wonderful job selecting and reading the chalice lighting as well as learning the ropes of the Worship Associate role. I can't wait to discover what's next as we deepen and broaden our opportunities for spiritual development for people of all ages. "Each night a child is born is a holy night."

Blessings,

Reverend Shelley Page



Religious Education News

As we end the month of December and the year 2011 let us focus on the gifts of love and hope. I was asked by several congregants to print the *Call to Worship* words that were read at The Polar Express Pageant on December 11, 2011. The words were written by Edward Searl, UU Minister in Hinsdale, Illinois.

Call to Worship

If only for the season... Let us banish cynicism and welcome wonder.

If only for the season... Let us downplay our differences and discover the bonds of common origin and continuing cause.

If only for the season... Let us set aside worry and smile and laugh and sing.

If only for the season... Let us deny apathy and indifference and truly live by loving.

If only for the season... Let us subvert our envy and jealousy and be both good at giving and receiving the gifts before us.

If only for the season... this brief season of light, of life, of love, let us be wise enough to be a little foolish about candlelight, the sound of sleigh bells, about children and matters of the heart.

If only for the season! (by Edward Searl)

Thank you to everyone for all your time, love, thoughts and giving for the Religious Education Program at GPUC. For centuries, African Bushmen have greeted each other by saying, "I See You!" and then the person approaching says, "I Am Here!" I say to you for 2012, "I See You!" Happy Holidays.

Dates to Remember:

Sundays, December 25 and January 1 - No classes. The nursery will not be open on December 25, **but will be open on January 1 and thereafter.**

Sunday, January 8 -- Classes will begin for 2012.

Friday, January 20 -- **Circle Circle Dinner** -- Appetizers will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by a delicious Lasagna Dinner. This year we will feature Tim Clark, a multi-talented musician who has developed a unique, eclectic style that burns deep in the soul of all who witness his art. Tim's program will start at 7:30 p.m. Children under 10 will be admitted free. The cost for adults and students 11 and over is \$5.00. Please sign up in the church lobby. We ask every family to bring a salad, an appetizer or a dessert to share.

-- Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

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 7 p.m., and will meet as scheduled on **December 19th**. No workshop held Monday, January 2, but will meet January 16th. Bring your writings for discussion, 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 led by Reverend Shelley Page

Classes begin on **Sunday, January 8th** and continue on **January 15, February 5, February 19, March 4, and March 11th**. Classes will be held at noon with a light luncheon provided for a \$3 donation. Children's lunches and child care provided at no charge. These classes are mainly for those who are new to our faith, and those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalist history, theology, social justice, denominational matters, and simply what it means to be a UU. **Please Note: If you have signed up for these classes and have not let me (Jill Crane) know if you intend to attend, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can plan for the light luncheon and the child care.**

Sunday Morning Meditations led by Zachariah Bobby will **not** meet December 25 and January 1, but will begin again on Sunday, January 8 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.

Women's Book Discussion Group

Moloka'i: The group will meet again on Thursday, January 19, at 5:30 p.m. at the church, with the discussion led by Kelly Boll of the book **Moloka'i**, by Alan Brennert (400 pages). This richly imagined novel, set in Hawaii more than a century ago, is an extraordinary epic of a little-known time and place – and a deeply moving testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to Kalupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end – but instead she discovers it is only the beginning. Refreshment Assistant: Karin Garrett

For the New Year

Reverend Shelley and I have been hard at work designing new programs that we hope will pique your interest in the coming year. Included are forums dealing with Immigration, the Environment, the Library Millage Vote coming up in February, Mental Health, and another Unitarian Universalist Common Read Discussion. If you have knowledge or interest in any of the above and would like to help out with them in some way, please let me know.

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 the sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact John Artis.

It's Easy Being Green

Unitarian Universalists across the country are learning about living into our Seventh Principle (*Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*) through the **Unitarian Universalist Association's Green Sanctuary** program. Are you interested in greening our church and learning more about taking care of the earth? We'll be exploring the possibility of becoming a "Green Sanctuary" in the months to come. We would like to raise our awareness with a forum series regarding our environment. If anyone has suggestions for speakers, or ideas to help us get this off the ground, please see Jill Crane or Andrew Hartz. We're also planning some environmental film showings and discussions. Stay tuned and let Jill know if you are interested in being green!

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

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

-- Jill Crane, Director of Adult Religious Enrichment

CHRISTMAS EVE "COOKIE FEST"

On Christmas Eve we are introducing "Cookie Fest" following the service. People coming to the service can bring perhaps a dozen cookies or brownies to share with others after the service. A beverage, such as a cup of cider, will accompany the cookies and brownies. This will be a tasty and festive occasion to celebrate fellowship with members of our church family. If you have questions, please contact **Mollie Fletcher** at weavermol@hotmail.com.

GPUC WOMEN'S ALLIANCE LUNCHEON

Free! Well, almost. Only a dollar (\$1.00) to attend the January GPUC Women's Alliance luncheon on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. Our speaker(s) will be - you!

Have you read a good book lately? Have you seen a movie, or a ballet? Had a baby? Taken a trip? Maybe you've a sorrow or joy you'd like to share with friends. Bring yourself, your story, (or just your ears to listen), and a bag lunch on January 10, 2012 to the GPUC Alliance luncheon at noon in the Annex. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided by the Alliance for only a buck! (Whatta deal!)

Reservations will be accepted by Shirley Reeves (313-822-4651) any time.

-- Phyllis Reeve for the Alliance

ONE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE YOUR CPR SKILLS - TUESDAY, JANUARY 17TH

Beaumont Medical Transportation EMS technicians will return to the church for one more class on this life-saving skill. You never know when you might be able to save a life. At church, at school, at work, at home - CPR is a skill we all should learn. This is an especially good opportunity for babysitters to learn CPR, and teenagers are welcome. In addition, our instructors will demonstrate how to use the church's AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) device. All this at no cost to participants.

See or call Jo Ann Kelly (313-821-0467) if you have questions - or call Candy Dunn (313-881-0420) in the church office to sign up.

The class will be held TUESDAY, JANUARY 17th, 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
IN THE GPUC GALLERY.

-- Jo Ann Kelly for the Care Committee

MAY 6 IS THE DATE!

We will celebrate the installation of Reverend Shelley Page as our settled minister on Sunday, May 6, 2012, at 4 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. All are invited to join this joyful celebration! Watch for additional information.

-- Pi Irwin, Chair of the Installation Committee

SOUP GROUP

Don't we all enjoy a bowl of warm and tasty soup?
Aren't we a little hungry after church service?
Would you like to get to know people better by eating lunch together?
Would you like to shop at our Resale Shop after church?

If your answers are "Yes," then consider this: thought is being given to organizing a "soup group" in the New Year. The purpose of this group would be to serve a soup lunch in our Olympia Brown Center after service one Sunday a month, with the added bonus of the Resale Shop open for business during that time. The "soup group" will be a different group of cooks each month, who will prepare and serve a vegan soup. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to cook with others on Saturday to create the soups to be served on Sunday. The kitchen in the annex has everything needed for making soup, from pots to bowls. The charge for the lunch will be a dollar a bowl. The money raised from the first soup gathering would go on to fund the ingredients for the next, and so on.

Sound like your idea of fun? Sign up for the "soup group" on Sundays (in the lobby), or email **Mollie Fletcher** at weavermol@hotmail.com.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE GPUC NEWSLETTER

Articles for the GPUC Newsletter should be emailed to newsletter@gpuc.us before 12:00 noon of the Sunday date of publication. This allows the editors sufficient time to organize the content, to contact the author of the article if there are questions to resolve, and to forward the finished document to our Office Administrator for distribution on Monday. Articles received after the noon deadline, will be placed in the next GPUC Newsletter. The auto-reply function of the Newsletter website will respond with a message indicating that the request to place the article into the current Newsletter cannot be fulfilled. If your article contains time sensitive information, it would be best to email it several days before the Sunday noon deadline. Upcoming Newsletter publishing dates are:

- Sunday, January 8
- Sunday, January 22

-- Tom Roberts for the Editors

HOLIDAY GATHERINGS AT GROSSE POINTE UNITARIAN CHURCH

Saturday, December 24	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Sunday, December 25	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Worship Service
Sunday, January 1	10:30 a.m.	New Year's Day Worship Service