

The Grosse Pointe Unitarian

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January 29, 2012

10:30 AM

Living in the Darkness

Reverend Andrew Weber Joseph P. Buttiglieri, Worship Associate

Many people view winter and other dark moments as times of waiting for the light of spring. The winter is a season with its own characteristics, which can be enjoyed and which can help us to see how to live through dark times in our lives.

February 5, 2012

10:30 AM

Lean On Me

Reverend Shelley Page Tonya Wells and Andrew Hartz Jr., Worship Associates

Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous essay, *Self Reliance* is often referenced by folks who admonish others to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and take control of their lives. A closer look at Emerson reveals a very different reading of this iconic American message. Join us and learn what good old Ralph was really saying to us about self and reliance.

February 12, 2012

10:30 AM

Love Has No Borders

Reverend Shelley Page Cynthia Luce, Worship Associate

This year's Standing on the Side of Love Sunday will explore the tender/harsh realities of our nation's immigration challenges. We'll focus on what's happening right here in Michigan, as we affirm that love has no borders.



Wonderings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

Last Sunday, I lifted up the foundational story of this church—that Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church brought Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Grosse Pointe to speak in the turbulent days of 1968. We did not literally invite Dr. King but the congregation strongly supported its minister, Rev. Dr. Harry Meserve who was the President of the Grosse Pointe Human Relations Council that did extend the invitation. This story we tell about our courageous support of this historic event has lived and grown into legend in the past forty-four years. Along with honoring the history of this monumental event, I posed some questions about how we can live into the legacy of this bold action, as we face racism and classism in the 21st century.

My sense is that our work to do involves understanding white privilege and really delving into the workings of racism in our society, as we seek to become more multi-culturally diverse in our congregation and aspire to make a difference in the wider community. Let's be honest. Dealing with race is uncomfortable for most of us. We want to live in the world we dream about but we're overwhelmed with the reality of getting there. These feelings are normal and expected, in the face of such a great challenge.

We Unitarian Universalists, however, are a bold people. We supported women's suffrage and abolition, when those challenges seemed insurmountable. We will not solve racism in our lifetimes, but we are called to do our part to move the world closer to the day when all people are judged by the content of their character and not their skin color. How then do we begin?

A wonderful opportunity is coming up on March 30-April 1st at our Heartland District Assembly in Lansing. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed who will address "Torn Between Fuzzy Aspirations and Hard Reality," an exploration of what it will really mean for Unitarian Universalists to truly embrace more diversity in our movement. Rev. Morrison-Reed will speak on Saturday and preach on Sunday, providing lots of fodder for our journey ahead. He is a dynamic and inspirational minister with lots of personal experience from his encounters with racism. Check out website http://www.heartlanduu.org/Annual_Meeting_Pages/assembly_home.html for details about his appearances and other great workshops. It would be fabulous to have a strong delegation at this year's District Assembly. Imagine the power of hearing Rev. Morrison-Reed and then gathering to discuss possibilities for our own work here at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

In the meantime, if you want to learn a little more about white privilege, I suggest viewing the trailer from Shakti Butler's excellent film "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible" at <http://world-trust.org/films/>. I have seen this insightful powerful film and highly recommend it. The trailer will give you just a taste of understanding more and perhaps will whet your appetite to learn more about racism.

Blessings,
Reverend Shelley Page



Religious Education Lessons

Religious Education News

Boston Trip 2013 is being planned, and the fundraising begins soon!! In the next year and half you will be seeing posters and news articles, bake sales, things to purchase, spaghetti dinner events and much more. The juniors and seniors of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church are planning a trip to Boston to learn more about our faith and the cradle of our early heritage as a nation. Any child going into 6th grade in 2013 and all 7th through 12th graders are eligible to join the trip. At this time, we have at least 22 students who have this opportunity to go to Boston if they wish to do so.

Why do we plan a Boston trip? A trip to Boston can help to make our liberal heritage a real part of the lives of 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, wander about the graves of our forebears, and visit the UUA and its 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 manage being away from home.

If you are interested in helping our students go to Boston 2013, step up and let us know. Cindy Brusilow is our trip coordinator and would love some help. *Think and Act Boston 2013!*

Religious Education Lessons:

Lower and Upper Elementary students on Sunday, January 29th, will be studying Buddhism.

Lower Elementary students on Sunday, February 5th, will finish their section on Buddhism.

Upper Elementary students will begin their lessons on Judaism.

Junior students will be preparing for their spaghetti dinner on Sunday, January 29th, and on Sunday, February 5th, their lesson will be on Mecca, Islam's Faith Journey. Please join the juniors on **Sunday, February 12th for their Annual Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 5-7 p.m.**

Senior students will meet at the Ottenhoff home at 7:00 p.m. to continue their lessons on World Religions and Sacraments. On February 5th, the students will attend the church service at 10:30 a.m.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 29th: Religious Education Committee meets at 9:15 a.m. in Room 1

Sunday, February 12th: Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall, 5-7 p.m.

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

New UU Classes led by Reverend Shelley Page will be held at noon on Sunday, February 5th, 19th, March 4th, and 11th. A light lunch, (\$3 for adults or \$1 for children) and child care will be provided. Pre-registration is required to attend.

The Writing Workshop facilitated by Mary Beth Smith and Pat Gillis, will meet in the church library from 5 until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. The next meetings will be on **Monday, February 6th and 20th**. Either bring your writings to discuss and receive helpful hints or just come and listen.

If you require child care, please make arrangements with Julie Artis in the RE Wing ahead of time.

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

The Grosse Pointe Library Millage Vote proposal will be presented after church on **Sunday, February 12th** by Mary Beth Smith and Ed Frederickson. Ed is a millage committee member, who will offer facts and figures in order that we may make an informed decision, when we vote on Tuesday, February 28th.

The Women's Book Discussion Group will discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot on **Thursday, February 16th** at 5:30 p.m. Pi Irwin will lead the discussion of this textured story of the hidden costs of scientific progress that ultimately restored a human face to the cell line that propelled 20th century biomedicine. Refreshment Assistants will be Susan Boynton and Laura Gant.

The UUA's Green Sanctuary Program is about *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*, our Seventh UU Principle. If you are interested and know of speakers that could participate in a forum series about "greening" our church and taking care of the earth, please contact Jill Crane or Andrew Hartz. On **Friday, February 17th**, at 7p.m., we will begin our journey into being a Green Sanctuary with the showing of the documentary, *Food, Inc.*, which criticizes the food industry for putting unsafe food on our tables.

Wrongful Imprisonment Forum on Sunday, March 25th, *Just-Justice-Zero Tolerance* will present a forum on and what happens to people, when they are freed from prison. This is a difficult time for released inmates, who are faced with enormous obstacles, which most of us know little about.

Effective Parenting programs are being offered to GPUC members through *CARE of Southeastern Michigan*. Each of the following 3 programs is 8 sessions long, is given at our church and is free: Early Childhood (under 5 years), School Age (5-12years), Teenage (12-18years). Participants will need to purchase a book called "Systematic Training for Effective Parenting" which costs between \$12 and \$17 each. Please sign up in the foyer.

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.

Jill Crane, Director of Adult Religious Enrichment

Rev. Shelley's Schedule Reminder

Rev. Shelley is traveling in California and will return to Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church on Tuesday, January 31st. During that time, she will not be checking emails or keeping up with goings on here at GPUC. If an emergency arises, however, Candy Dunn in our office will know how to reach her.

Guest Minister Andrew Weber

We are pleased to welcome the Reverend Andrew Weber as guest minister on Sunday, January 29, 2012. Reverend Andrew Weber is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and just became an ordained UU minister. Andrew went to seminary at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and recently finished his ministerial internship at Horizon UU Church, just north of Dallas, Texas. He is youth adviser for First Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor along with his wife, Isabella, who attends the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Please join us to welcome Reverend Weber and to hear what promises to be an interesting sermon.

-- Joseph P. Buttiglieri for the Worship Associates

Pathways to Membership Workshop

On **Saturday, February 11th** from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., a gathering for potential new members will be held at the church. Rev. Shelley Page and volunteers from the Membership Committee will conduct the workshop for the purpose of providing concrete steps to membership. The agenda will include: sharing stories of spiritual paths and backgrounds, giving information about *growing, and being an explorer in religion*, understanding the UU history, principals and purposes, and GPUC expectations for time, talents and stewardship. Lunch will be served. Please call or email the church office 313-881-0420 or gpuc@gpuc.us to sign up.

-- Jane Hoey, Membership Committee Chair

Alliance February 14th Luncheon

Come Tuesday, February 14th and join *The Ladies Who Lunch*. The January meeting was such fun, we're repeating the program. Bring your brown bag lunch, a dollar for a beverage and dessert, and sit around the table with us. It's Valentine's Day, so we'll plan to share various stories such as how you met your spouse, or of a past unrequited love, or of an amusing (or sad) incident of a flame that was never extinguished. If you'd prefer, just listen as others regale us with *their* tales. Lunch time is 12 noon and the guest speakers are you. The cost is \$1.00. Call Shirley Reeves, 313-822-4651 to tell her that you'll be there.

-- Phyllis Reeve for the Alliance

Winter Blood Drive - You Are Needed!!

The Winter Blood Drive, sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Community Blood Council, will be held on Thursday, February 2nd, from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. The drive will be held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Rd., Grosse Pointe Farms. If you are able to give blood at this time, please contact me at 313-823-3952 or pfreiwald@aol.com. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

-- Pat Freiwald for the Outreach Committee

Purchase Hymnals in Honor or Memory of Loved Ones!

The Church is acquiring new contemporary hymnals, which we will keep in the church and use in addition to our current hymnals. The new songbooks are titled *Singing the Journey*. Sale of these new hymnals will continue through Sunday, February 12th. The hymnals cost \$20 each, and this cost is tax deductible. Purchasers can dedicate the hymnal(s) they buy in honor or memory of loved ones. Bookplates will be placed in these hymnals, commemorating the dedications. Checks should be made out to GPUC, with "Hymnals" in the memo line. We hope to dedicate and begin using the new *Singing the Journey* songbooks on Sunday, March 11. Order forms are in the Order of Service, and can be mailed to the Church office, with check attached, in care of Candy Dunn, Church Secretary. Hymnal orders/purchases can also be made in the lobby before and after church services. If you have questions about purchasing/dedicating a hymnal, please contact Vicky Keating at 313-567-4601 or Candy Dunn at 313-881-0420.

--Vicky Keating for the Hymnal Purchase Committee

How to Listen to GPUC Sunday Services on our Website

Our website has recorded Sunday sermons and memorial services for your listening pleasure. To access these recordings, go to WWW.GPUC.US; scroll down on the home page to "Sermons & Services". Click on the service you wish to hear. If it is available, you will see the word (LISTEN). The most recent services, (about a month's worth) are visible. If you wish to hear one that took place prior to those listed, you will need to click on the words 'View All' at the bottom of the list. That will take you back to the complete list of earlier services for listening.

--Larry Peplin for the Website Committee

New President and Vice President Announced

On Tuesday, January 10th, the GPUC Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of John Owens as our President. They affirmed their personal support for John and his strong leadership and dedication while he served in this important role in our congregation. The Board also supported Vice President Janet Peplin as their choice to serve the remainder of the current term of Board President ending June 30, 2012. In accordance with our By-Laws, the Board next appointed and affirmed Ann Helm to serve as the Vice President for the remainder of the current term, ending June 30, 2012. We are grateful to Ann for stepping up to offer her experience and guidance in this important time of transition.

-- The GPUC Board of Trustees

Crossroads – New Location & Volunteer Training Available

Crossroads East has moved to a new location. It will now be housed at Salem Memorial Lutheran Church at 21230 Moross Road, Detroit, MI 48236. They are still in the process of organizing, following the move, but they hope to resume seeing clients this week. In anticipation of increased client service, they will be hosting a training session on Saturday, January 28th. Volunteering at Crossroads is a rewarding opportunity that offers flexible accommodating hours to fit your schedule. For more information, contact Janet Peplin at 313-882-0063 or jpeplin@att.net.

-- Janet and Larry Peplin for the Outreach Committee

Soup Sunday Committee Recognition

The soup-Sunday committee would like to send a huge thank-you to the folks who helped make it happen. They are Cyndi Preston, Ann Parker, Deb Connelly, and Margo Bishop.

-- Mollie Fletcher for the Soup Sunday Committee

Newsletter Publication Schedule

Publication schedules are actually deadlines for the submission of Newsletter articles to our email address, newsletter@gpuc.us, but the editors greatly appreciate receiving your articles well in advance of the deadline. It allows us time to check your article and contact you with any questions that we might have. We have instituted an auto-response for articles received after the deadline. The text of the auto-response message states "The Noon Deadline for submission of articles to the current GPUC Newsletter has passed. All articles received at this time will be placed in the next GPUC Newsletter. Thank you for your contribution."

Listed below is the publication schedule for the remainder of the current GPUC Church year:

<i>February 12, 2012</i>	<i>February 26, 2012</i>
<i>March 11, 2012</i>	<i>March 25, 2012</i>
<i>April 8, 2012</i>	<i>April 22, 2012</i>
<i>May 13, 2012</i>	<i>May 27, 2012</i>
<i>June 10, 2012</i>	

-- Tom Roberts for the Editors