

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

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Editor: Paul Rowady
newsletter@gpuc.us

February 19

10:30 AM

The Face of Jesus

Worship Leader: Reverend Shelley Page
Worship Associates: Jim Moir and Andrew Hartz, Jr.

The recent Rembrandt exhibition at the Detroit Institute of the Arts raised interesting questions about the nature of Jesus. Let's explore the meaning of this powerful spiritual figure as we ask "Who is Jesus to Unitarian Universalists?"

February 26

10:30 AM

A New Story of Salvation

Worship Leader: Reverend Fran Dew
Worship Associate: Cynthia Luce

We need to be reminded that we are in the business of saving souls. Our "Good News" is no less real for being different. This morning, from the perspective of a long time UU (48 years and counting) and a retired UU minister, I'll be reflecting on the life saving qualities of our faith.

The Reverend Fran Dew comes to GPUC from her family home near Ann Arbor. After a lengthy sojourn raising a family in the Pacific Northwest and a career in interim ministry which took her from coast to coast, she returned to Michigan for a retirement of gardening in her grandmother's gardens.



Wonderings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

Icicles dance
at lake's edge,
tethered to twigs.
Born just last night,
they revel
as sparkling light
reveals crystal glory.
Warmed by sun-love
they let go,
transformed,
back into mystery.

This poem rose out of me as I stood watching icicles dance on the edge of Lake St. Clair at Patterson Park this week. I wish all of you could have been there to see the wonder of the scene, a subtle but spectacular ephemeral experience. And the only way I happened to see it was that I slowed down to look with curiosity and awe. I spent some time absorbed in watching icicles dance. How much time? I'm not sure, but enough time to transport me to that place of wonder where my muse could rise up, transforming my morning walk into a spiritual encounter.

I've just recently returned from my trip to California where I participated in an excellent workshop on Clergy Well Being: Balancing Your Life and Your Ministry. I'm still reflecting on the learning from this meaningful time spent with twenty other clergy from around the continent. We all had varying levels of ministerial experience and different faiths but we all shared the same concern about our desire to serve our congregations in a sustainable way, bringing the best of our gifts to the world and living in a state of relaxed well-being while doing so. So much about ministry is well-doing. We all needed the reminder that effective ministry also requires well-being. And, surprise, this message applies to life as a whole, regardless of our profession.

It's easy for a minister to get overscheduled, working from early morning until well into the evening, on a regular basis. I love serving GPUC and I find there's always more to do and more to love. But, working too much becomes unsustainable at some point. I crave more spaciousness in my life so I can serve you well and serve my life well. So, I'm trying some experiments including not scheduling morning meetings, unless it is an emergency. I'm leaving that space for well-being so that my muse will rise again and again, calling me home to my deep knowing place filled with relaxed "all will be well" joyful energy. I'll let you know how it goes!

Blessings,
Reverend Shelley Page



Religious Education Lessons

Religious Education News

Sophia Fahs Religious Education Wing is the sign that is right above the double doors as you enter our area for our students. Who is Sophia Fahs? Sophia Lyon Fahs was a revolutionary educator who questioned how we taught religious education. She suggested that children learn through their interaction with the world and not merely by being told what to believe. For more than 80 years as a professional educator and author, Fahs strove to create a theology that restored human emotions and human experience to their rightful place as foundational building blocks for a liberal faith. Sophia Fahs devoted her life to the big questions rather than to the big answers. Here are quotes from two of Fahs books.

"We are resolved to protect individual freedom of belief. This freedom must include the child as well as the parent. The freedom for which we stand is not freedom of belief as we please...not freedom to evade responsibility,...but freedom to be honest in speech and action, freedom to respect one's own integrity of thought and feeling, freedom to question, to investigate, to try to understand life and the universe in which life abounds, freedom to search anywhere and everywhere to find the meaning of being and freedom to experiment with new ways of living that seem better than the old."

"The religious way is the deep way, the way that sees what physical eyes alone fail to see, the intangibles of the heart of every phenomenon. The religious way is the way that touches universal relationships: that goes high, wide and deep, and expands the feelings of kinship."

In the spirit of Sophia Fahs, let us continue our lessons with our students to enhance questioning with interaction with the world.

Religious Education Lessons

Lower Elementary students will be studying *Taoism* on Sunday, February 19 and *Islam* on Sunday, February 26.

Upper Elementary students on Sundays, February 19 and 26 will continue their lessons on *Judaism*.

Junior students' lesson on Sunday, February 19 will be Nature versus Nurture: The Dance of DNA and Life. On Sunday, February 26 the lesson will be Genesis & Geology: Astrophysics & Anthropoids.

Senior students on Sundays, February 19 and 26 are asked to attend church. They may also contact Mrs. Artis if willing to be an assistant teacher in the younger classes.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, March 4: RE Committee Meeting at 9:15 a.m., Room 1 in RE wing.

Sunday, March 11: **Pool Party**, Warren Community Center, 2 p.m. pizza in party room, then swim until 5:00 p.m., please sign up with Julie Artis.

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

THIS WEEK!

This Friday, February 17th, at 7 p.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. A discussion will follow. If you did not sign up we still hope you will still join us and bring your friends and neighbors. Child care will be available.

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.

NEW!

Spirit Play with Rev. Shelley

Join us on Friday, March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. for "Mindful Bodies"

Come explore embodied spiritual practices with us! We'll experience a variety of practices that please our BodySpirits as we learn more about the seamless connection between our minds, bodies and spirits. Dress comfortably to allow ease of movement.

OF INTEREST TO PARENTS OR CAREGIVERS

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: Non church members are invited to join us for these classes so please tell your friends about them.

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 and indicate if you would like a weekday evening, Saturday or Sunday after church class time.

FUTURE FORUMS

Wrongful Imprisonment Forum on Sunday, March 25th, following church. *Just-Justice* 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.

ON-GOING PROGRAMS

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 **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 20th and March 5th. 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.

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

ALLIANCE FEBRUARY 14TH LUNCHEON

Come Tuesday, February 14th and join *The Ladies Who Lunch*. The January meeting was such fun, we're repeating the brown bag 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. Contact Shirley Reeves at 313-822-4651 to tell her that you'll be there.

-- Phyllis Reeve for the Alliance

SOUP'S ON...

...or will be Sunday, February 26 from 11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. in the Annex building. For a "buck-a-bowl" you can enjoy either a vegan or meaty soup made for your enjoyment by church members. Coffee will be available and, for "dessert" visit the GPUC Resale Shop for great treasures and trifles at bargain prices. Soup, socializing and shopping – who could ask for anything more!

-- Juli Moore

GPUC RESALE SHOP NEEDS HELP

The Resale Shop is in need of a few people to help with cashiering on Wednesdays (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.). All those interested should call Margo Bishop (586-778-2185) or Juli Moore (810-724-7110) and arrange a time to visit us.

We would like to remind our church members and friends that the Resale Shop accepts donations and consignments from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays ONLY. Items should not be left outside the facility doors or inside the building when the shop is closed. Special arrangements can be made for alternative drop off times by calling Margo Bishop. Because the Fellowship Hall is rented out on a regular basis, it must be kept clear. Thank you!

-- Juli Moore

GPUC AUCTION EVENTS WITH OPENINGS

There are three Auction Events this spring that have a few openings:

Friday, March 9th: Times You'll Remember: Camp Night GPUC

Offered by Rev. Shelley Page. The Chapel will be turned into Camp GPUC where attendees can sing camp songs, tell ghost stories and participate in other camp hi-jinks. For all ages, no limit to the numbers of campers. \$10 per person, maximum \$25 per family. Camp-style snacks will be served.

Saturday, March 31st: Nibbles and Notes

Offered by Laura Bartell & Stan Harr, Joseph Palazzolo, Robin Ramsay
Herald the early spring with a lovely buffet supper at the Grosse Pointe Shores home of Laura Bartell and Stan Harr. Musical entertainment will be provided by our own Music Man, Joseph Palazzolo and the voices of Stan Harr, Robin Ramsay and maybe other surprise singers. \$50 per person.

Saturday, May 5th: Italian Cuisine Cooking Class

Offered by Jill Crane
You will learn to make an antipasto, at least 4 Italian sauces, a main dish, salad and dessert. A fun afternoon where you will act as sous-chefs sitting around Jill's dining room table; followed by dining on the foods you have helped prepare. Starts at 3 p.m. \$50 per person

See registration sheets in the foyer to sign up. Questions? Call the Church office 313-881-0420.

GO TO CHURCH WITH RAVENDALE

Ravendale residents came to a GPUC Sunday service last year and had a great experience ... and now they are inviting us to be guests at *their* Sunday service. A warm welcome is awaiting when we Go to Church with Ravendale. It promises to be a lively service with wonderful music. Go to Church with Ravendale is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to share our faith, show our love, and make new friends with Pastor Zachary Hicks and the congregation. We hope you will come and enjoy a special Go to Church with Ravendale service.

Where: Faith Clinic Church of God in Christ, 12260 Camden, Detroit, MI

Directions: <http://www.bing.com/maps/default.aspx?v=2&pc=FACEBK&mid=8100&rtp=adr.~pos.42.40121~-82.982342+Faith+Clinic+12260+Camden+St%2C+Detroit%2C+MI+48213-1756&cp=42.40121~-82.982342&lvl=16&sty=r&rtp=0~0~0~&mode=D&FORM=FBKPL1&mkt=en-US>

When: Sunday, March 18, 2012, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (please arrive 10 minutes early)

- All ages are invited
- There is a separate young people's service that is optional
- Nursery is available
- Large, gated, security parking available.

-- Partnership 4 Change/Outreach Committees

(Note: Services will still be offered at GPUC on this date including a special children's chapel - in place of the usual RE classes).

FELLOWSHIP DINNER - SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST

If you enjoy eating and drinking wonderful food, and socializing with friends...you'll want to join us at the Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, April 21st. Save the date on your calendar now!

-- Janet Peplin

NEW TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES OPEN

Detroit Merit Academy at Alter and Jefferson will begin after school tutoring and enrichment classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week beginning February 7. These sessions are held 3:45-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and 3:45-4:45 p.m. on Wednesday. Interested tutors may begin as soon as background checks are completed.

For those with limited time, enrichment projects or special interests may be scheduled at your convenience. Some volunteers have initiated books clubs, weaving or quilting projects and special presentations on travel or hobbies. Please contact Susan Boynton 313-885-0824 to discuss your ideas or offer assistance.

KUDOS TO BLOOD DONORS

The blood drive held recently by the Community Blood Council, of which GPUC is a member, was on Thursday, February 2. Representing GPUC were members Larry Peplin, Paul Rowady, and Jennifer Semanision. Many thanks to these people! The date of the next blood drive will be in May at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. Exact date will be given at a later time.

-- Pat Freiwald for Outreach

NEXT NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATE - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

The publication deadline for the submission of Newsletter articles to our email address, newsletter@gpuc.us is 12 noon on the publication date listed above. 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.