

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

Rev. Mitra Rahnema, Minister
Email: revmr@gpuc.us

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10:30 AM

THE DEVOTION OF JUSTICE

Reverend Mitra Rahnema

Rev. Mitra Rahnema

This time of year many religious traditions are exercising the recommitment to their practice of devotion and discipline. In truth, everyday we all must recommit ourselves to a more just world. By doing so, many unnamed people struggle in many unseen ways. Today, we will talk about our commitments and the religious devotion of justice.

February 28, 2010

10:30 AM

HEALING HEARTS

Matthew Parker

Matthew Parker grew up in Detroit and Parker earned an MA in Education Administration from the University of Detroit in 1987. He is the founder of the Michigan Faith Based Health Association, a coalition of faith-based organizations, public health professionals and others representing various fields of expertise. The Association was established to support the vision of supporting healthier lifestyles for citizens living in Michigan and recognizes that faith-based organizations have historically served as a cornerstone for human services within the community and is an excellent place to work to improve health behaviors. Please join us for what promises to be an enlightening talk about a topic that often gets politicized.



Minister's Musings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

We are not alone. As the Rev. John Buehrens said, "To be religious is to make connection." Unitarian Universalist is a small but mighty movement building religious homes for hundreds of thousands of people. As a certified Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Grosse Pointe is in covenant with all other Unitarian Universalist congregations. We covenant to affirm and promote seven principles. They are:

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
- **Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
- **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;**
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
- **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**

Throughout this Interim period the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church has been rethinking our linkage to the Unitarian Universalist Association and begun to build healthy partnerships with our movement. Strengthening the connection to our Association and establishing a relationship of interdependence and trust is a vital part of the Interim time.

A wonderful opportunity to engage with this "connecting" work is at the Annual District Conference this April (9th-11th). Every year our District sponsors a conference of members where workshops, fellowship, worship, and governance can happen. This year is the tenth anniversary of the Heartland District Spring Conference. The conference theme is the "Ten Best." Workshops will focus on the ten best tips, suggestions, or ideas for how to "do church" in a variety of areas. The keynote speaker will be Kay Montgomery, the Executive Vice President of the UUA. All members of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church are invited.

Fortunately, this year the conference will be held close to home, which is a perfect opportunity for our church to emerge in the District. The Heartland Meeting and Spring Conference will be:

April 9th-11th. 2010 : First Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Generally the conference begins that Friday evening and runs through Sunday morning. For registration information please go to heartlanduu.org and/or let our office know you plan to attend so we can make sure you are connected to others in our Grosse Pointe community who are attending. I hope you will consider participating in "making connection" with our fellow Unitarian Universalists.

With Love,

Rev. Mitra



Religious Education Lessons

PARENTS AND STUDENTS have you checked out this website? Mountain Retreat & Learning Center www.mountaincenters.org. Also, check out two of our new books in RE, "Sunday and Every Day" and "A Grateful Heart".

LOWER AND UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS on **Feb. 21st** will be guided through student UU information from Mrs. Artis with a craft. Lower Elementary students on **Feb. 28th** will study "Having a Voice" and on **March 7th** will study "Voice and Voting Counts". Upper Elementary on **Feb. 28th** and **March 7th** will study "The Adventures of our People".

JUNIORS on **Feb. 21st** will study the death penalty and prepare advertising for the Spaghetti Dinner. **Feb. 28th** they will study Affirmative Action, and continue to prepare advertising for the Spaghetti Dinner. **March 7th** they will be prepping for the Spaghetti Dinner and selling tickets.

SENIORS on **Feb. 21st** will meet at the Edmonds home to continue the study of the New Testament and on **Feb. 28th** will meet at the church annex to work on their Service Project of Fleece Blankets that they are making for "Project Linus" at 7:30 p.m. All seniors on **March 7th** are asked to attend the Spaghetti Dinner and sit as a group to support the juniors fundraising event.

Dates to Remember

- March 7th** RE Committee meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 1
- March 7th** Spaghetti Dinner in the annex from 5-7 p.m.
- March 20th** Fellowship Dinner

We are always looking for volunteers for the RE Program. Give me a call with questions or ideas. This next quote comes from the book, "Sunday and Every Day",

"We come together To remind ourselves, To treat all people kindly, Because they are our brothers and sisters, To take good care of the earth, Because it is our home, To live lives full of goodness and love, Because that is how we will make our world, The best place it can be."

-Patty Collins

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Please join the women on Thursday, **Feb. 18th** at 5:30p.m. where Kelly Boll will lead a discussion on, **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows. The novel begins after WWII, as a writer seeks to make sense out of the turmoil and suffering she has witnessed.

Refreshments, Alice Laitner and Barbara Moran. \$2 donation at the time of meeting. Sign up in the church foyer.

MEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

On Monday, **March 1st** at 7:30p.m. the men meet and discuss, **American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson**, by Joseph J. Ellis. Ellis, a professor of history at Mt. Holyoke College, turns to Adam's longtime nemesis in a study of key moments in Jefferson's life: writing the Declaration of Independence, his sojourn to Paris, his presidency, and his retirement. Ellis portrays a complex individual of great strengths and foibles. The book won the National Book Award.

Please join the men; they are looking for new members.

UNDERSTANDING GRIEF

February 23rd through **March 23rd**, 7:00 until 9:00pm in the church library.

Are you facing the difficult process of grieving? Is the sense of loss overwhelming? Mourning is the outward expression of many thoughts and feelings about loss. It is important to engage with our unique grief and hold ourselves with care. Using the book, **Understanding Grief** by Dr. Alan Wolfelt the group will be guided by Rev. Rahnema through talking, telling stories, listening, and reading to help process the feelings that come with loss.

\$10 per person ... Book included. Sign up in the foyer.

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, Feb. 26, 6PM in the Annex.

We have changed the movie title and the format for this time.

We will watch the movie, **Anyone and Everyone**, which was a PBS special. We will meet in the annex, eat dinner, show the film then discuss the movie.

Connected by having a son or daughter who is gay, parents across the country discuss their experiences in the documentary. In it filmmaker, Susan Polis Schutz, depicts families from all walks of life, diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds as they share their accounts of how their children revealed their sexual orientation.

\$8 per person includes movie, dinner and discussion. Cash Please! Sign up in the foyer.

Childcare is offered at no cost for selected events...Please see Julie Artis in the RE Wing.

-Jill Crane, Director, Adult Religious Enrichment

SEARCH COMMITTEE TO GO ANOTHER YEAR

The Search Committee has worked very hard over the last several months to find the best candidate possible for our congregation. We were eager to find this person in one year, while being very aware that the recommended and usual time period for a search after having had a long-term minister is two years. We committed early on to try to complete a one year search without sacrificing thoroughness and due diligence, while remaining open to the possibility that, despite all our efforts, we would need to extend it.

We have had the opportunity to look at the records of about ten potential pre-candidates. After reading the complete packets of some and conducting phone interviews, we felt that two would be excellent pre-candidates. We invited them to preach at neutral pulpits so that we could hear and meet them. However, one is already investigating other attractive offers and declined to come at this time. This left us with only one pre-candidate, and we decided that, no matter how good this person may be, we did not want to make a decision on one without the opportunity to make a comparison with others. Ideally, we want to meet and hear three people preach before reaching a final decision on whether any one would be the best choice to present to the congregation for their vote.

With time getting short, and mindful that we will now need an Interim Minister for another year, we have decided to suspend our search and renew it in September. We are confident that there are excellent candidates out there, and we expect that we will be able to find somebody to bring to you for a vote. Having said that, be assured that we will not settle for anyone we do not feel would be a great fit for our congregation. We have informed the Board of Trustees of our decision, and they will begin the process of

deciding who will be our Interim Minister for the coming year.

We want to thank the congregation for your support of our work. We hope you will continue to talk to us and let us know your thoughts. We are excited by the energy that is being generated with our Interim Minister, and look forward to another year of invigorating change and growth as we prepare for a new settled minister.

Joe Buttiglieri (Chair)

Chuck Palmer

Laurie Arora

Larry Peplin

John Artis

Kinnie Smith

Janis Garan

Veronica Smith

Andrew Hartz (ex officio)

Christy Winder

SECOND INTERIM YEAR

First, I would like to thank the Ministerial Search Committee for all of the work they have put into finding a new Minister for GPUC.

According to the UUA, it is very unusual for the Ministerial Search Committee to also search for the Interim Minister. According to UUA guidelines, the Interim Search Committee is often a small (approximately 4 person) sub-committee of the Board. Therefore, at the Board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9 the Board appointed the following people to the Interim Search Committee: John Owens, Paul Lipsitz, Ann Helm, and Joe Buttiglieri. The purpose of this committee will be to find a minister who will come to our church on an interim basis to help us continue to redefine our goals as a congregation and to help us in the process of preparing for a new long-term ministry. We will also discussed the direction the Board feels we should take for

our second interim year. This committee will be able to take advantage of the contacts with the UUA that the Search Committee has established this year.

-Ann Helm, Board President

INK RECYCLING UPDATE

Thank you to those that have brought in their empty ink cartridges for recycling. Since December GPUC has earned over \$50 in Staples store credit. How easy is that! Please keep those cartridges coming into the office.

Thank you.

-Candy Dunn, GPUC Office Administrator

VISITORS WELCOME

Dan Basinski is at Belmont Nursing Center Room 71. The facility is located at 29840 Harper, Harper Woods. He will be there for awhile and will welcome visitors.

-Caring Committee

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GPUC Welcomes the following two new members in January 2010:

Sandra Moreland
husband Carl Grady, son Michael Grady
1421 Bedford Rd.
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
313-647-0530

Lori Panzenhagen
daughter Laila Panzenhagen
1379 Maryland
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
313-704-4441

lori48230@yahoo.com

SOUPER HELP

A Big Thank you to all who assisted with the soup social...Ann Parker, Janet Peplin, Veronica Smith, and our very capable soup wizard, Juli Moore.

-Mollie Fletcher, Fellowship

TUTORING AT CLARK SCHOOL TO START IN MARCH

Our outreach effort to assist the Detroit Public Schools will begin in March at the nearby Clark School (K-8), just three blocks past Mack at the end of Berkshire. The school is eager to have our volunteers tutor students in reading. The first orientation on Friday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m. will feature a demonstration of one of the reading programs used in the school as well as introduce tutors to the building and its facilities.

If you're interested in tutoring or other volunteer work at Clark School, please contact Ann Helm at 313-886-1152 to tell her your preferences for grade level and the day and time to tutor. Also, Susie Boynton can be reached at 313-885-0824. For those who cannot make the first orientation, another one will be scheduled in April.

-Susie Boynton for Outreach

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Please mark your calendars to join your fellow Unitarians for the annual Fellowship Dinner, this year on Saturday, **March 20th**. The Fellowship Dinner is one of the few opportunities each year to get all the members together for a social event. We gather for dinner, a little entertainment and a time to reflect on what this church means to each of us and to each other. Please plan to join us as we kick off the canvass drive for next year.

-Russell Chavey, Canvass committee