



The Beacon

October 2017



Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation of
Erie

Sunday Services — start at 10:30 a.m. and last approximately 60-75 minutes.

October 1 *The Heresy of Universalism, Christopher Columbus, and Today's Churches*

Speaker: Rev Charles Brock, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Girard

As Faustus Sozzini was one of the founders of Unitarianism, so to my surprise was another Italian Christopher Columbus one of the early stars of Universalism. Both were heresies, but both survived and can still help save the world.

This is our annual joint worship service with the First UU Church of Girard. A special potluck will follow the service.

Musicians: Lin Lang Su, James Pearson, Hannah Olanrewaju piano, cello

October 8 *You say "heretic" like it's a bad thing?*

Speaker: Rev. Beth Marshall.

There is something about being called a heretic that helps crystalize one's faith. What happens when the term is worn as a badge of honor, rather than an insult?

Musician: Candace Williams, French Horn

October 15 *It's a Horse of a Different Color*

Speaker: Rev. Beth Marshall

While our history is in part, defined by those who held beliefs which run contrary to the mainstream, our present is also defined by those willing to articulate their faith in new ways. While we may occasionally misstep, modern voices are moving us toward a more inclusive, expansive faith.

Musician: Jackson Froman and UUCE Choir

October 22 *Arianism and Docetism*

Speaker: Robert Rhodes

Two ancient, early Christian, obscure heresies are on different ends of a spectrum, Arianism and Docetism. Well, perhaps they are not entirely ancient, not uniquely Christian and not entirely irrelevant to spiritual living today.

Musician: Jackson Froman

October 29 *On Artists, Prophets, Poets and Other Heretics: What All People of Good Will Can Learn About the Catholic Debate Over Church Architecture 50 Years After Vatican II*

Speaker: Dr. Michael E. DeSanctis

Dr. DeSanctis will weave together the subjects of artistic expression and heresy.

Musician: Jackson Froman

Minister:

Reverend Beth Marshall

President:

Doug Russell

UUCE Board Secretary:

John Galle-Boyko

UUCE Board Members:

Lynne Brown

Bob Guthrie

Melanie Hetzel-Riggin

Roberta McCall

Wendy Ormond

Mission

INSPIRE, CONNECT, ACT

We are a vibrant and inclusive religious community.

We:

**INSPIRE personal and spiritual growth;*

**CONNECT in fellowship and service;*

**ACT for peace and justice.*

Vision

We will:

**Share the wisdom of our guiding principles and nurture all who come seeking personal and spiritual growth.*

**Be a welcoming, inclusive, and expanding religious congregation with diverse ideas and beliefs reflected in our services and programs.*

**Establish ourselves as a strong presence in the region through greater community engagement.*

Covenant

We:

**Covenant to promote a culture of compassion and acceptance in our relations with each other.*

**Promise to listen with the intent to understand and to communicate in an honest and respectful manner, even when we disagree.*

**Acknowledge that conflict is an opportunity for growth.*

MINISTER'S MUSINGS



Let's Have Fun

In many of the conversations I've been having lately with the good people at UUCE, I'm hearing a call for fun. Now, fun means different things to different people, but let's figure a way to add some fun, social activities this year. What appeals? Pizza and game night? Circle Suppers? How about a dance in the sanctuary? This month, I'm running low on ideas for "fun," but trust that collectively we can come up several options that will appeal. There is a sign-up sheet out my office door. Can we fill it with ideas, and maybe people willing to help make them happen?

Friday Morning Adult RE: *Facing Death with Life* - 10:30 a.m. - Olympia Brown Room

October 13, November 17, December 15, January 19

This course developed by Rev. Kate Walker and Lee Ann Wester facilitates a process of personal reflection, learning and spiritual growth focused on the topic of death and dying. Drawing upon a variety of contemporary spiritual and secular resources, it helps participants move from viewing death as an abstract concept to developing a personal recognition of its meaning in their lives. While each class stands independently, please plan to attend all four sessions.

There is a sign-up sheet outside of Rev. Beth's office door, please add your name if you are interested. (6 person minimum)

Brown Bag Lunches Return

12:15 p.m. October 13, November 17, December 15, January 19

Bring your lunch and share lively conversation with new friends and familiar faces.

All Women's Choir

Are you a soprano or alto and like to sing, but can't commit to a full season of choir rehearsals? This may be an opportunity for you. I am looking for a 8-24 women who are willing to help me out with a special project. In November, I would like to incorporate Holly Near's song "1000 Grandmothers" into a worship service that celebrates the abundant strength and power of our elders. If you might be interested in committing to several rehearsals, then singing on Sunday, please contact Janet Krack, and together we'll make it happen.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

I'm recovering from our very successful Saturday tending to the UUCE building and grounds. Thank you goes out to the Gannon students that helped re-arrange classrooms A, and B/C and numerous tasks about the Memorial Garden. One group of Gannon students set the pace for trimming the trees surrounding the parking lot and on the lower part of the property. Thank you John Boyko, Susan Galle-Boyko, Lisa Balsan, Tom Schlaudecker, Lynne and Cory Brown, Annette Krusewicz, Howard Krack, Lynne Stephens, Leigh Kostis and those I've forgotten, who were here, completing thankless upkeep on our building and grounds.

We will do it all over again next Saturday, Sept. 30th, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Rev. Beth has arrived with dual objectives of leading the discussion and possible reorganization, of our Committee structure, as defined by our by-laws and the formation of a Search Committee. These are two large tasks that will have a lasting affect on our UUCE home. This will be Rev Beth's last year with us. We need make use of her guidance.

RE appears well attended but we are still faced with a nursery staffing problem. We've sent recruitment letters to fourteen local daycares two weeks ago and haven't received any replies. Any ideas would be appreciated.

The Finance Committee has sought help from a local accounting firm in our quest to better use our copy of Quick Books. They have been helpful and we are considering making arrangements to meet again. At the same time we have considered acquiring management software. Most are hosted on the cloud. This gives me pause after the recent hack of Equifax, a credit reporting bureau. The UUCE has an older computer that isn't connected to the internet, a possible home for purchased management software. The quest continues.

A board member has been contacting UUCE members with the offer of serving on the Search Committee. Five have tentatively accepted. Would you consider serving?

Thank you,

Doug Russell





NOTES FROM THE RE CHALKBOARD

Welcome Fall! And welcome to the new 2017-18 school year. We are off to a fabulous start overall. Parents have received their welcome letter, and registration forms were due in September. If your child's registration form is not completed, you will need to complete it BEFORE they come to their next class. Yes, I have extra. Please arrive early so you can fill out the form and enter the service without interruption.

The only concern that continues at this time is that we don't have enough volunteers for the nursery. So the plan is that once per month, I will send out a plea for the dates that need filled. If they are not filled by that Sunday, I will make an announcement before service starts. If no one is able nor willing to be in the nursery, then the nursery will be closed for that Sunday Service and the 6 week-4 year old age group will be invited to sit through the service with their families. So, new volunteers are also welcome to see me and I will assist you in getting paperwork completed. Please note that it could take a week or two to get all your paperwork done before I can put you on a shift.

RE will continue to support service learning (as outlined in the parent letter). You will see middle school and teens aged students participating in coffee hour, pancake breakfast, teacher aides, junior ushers, and Memorial Garden cleanup (as applicable). The elementary program will support fundraising for the Erie Area Rabbit and Rescue Society (EARS). EVERYONE in the congregation is encouraged to support this program by bringing in paper towel, newspaper, and monetary donations for the shelter. They currently house 130+ rabbits available for adoption, and if the average bunny eats 2 cups of salad greens, 1/2 cup pellets, and hay, well you can IMAGINE their food and vet bills!

Here's to another fabulous year in the UUCE Religious Education Program!

~Susan Galle-Boyko, DRE

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOWARD KRACK!

*This story appeared in the September 23 edition of the Erie Times-News,
and the award was presented on September 24:*

Erie Chapter of Chapel of Four Chaplains to present awards

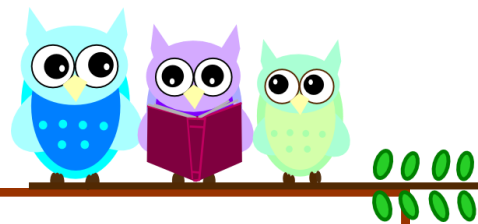
Event organizers said the Legion of Honor Award is presented annually to individuals whose lives encourage the spirit of good will and cooperation among all people without regard to race, religion or creed.

The Erie Chapter of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains will honor two men for their service to humankind.

The group's Legion of Honor Award will be presented to Howard Krack of Erie and the Rev. Allen B. Green, longtime pastor of Erie's Second Baptist Church, on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road.

The organization takes its name from four men who died in the Feb. 3, 1943, sinking of the Dorchester after it was struck by a Nazi torpedo in the Atlantic Ocean. The four chaplains were a Jewish rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest and two Protestant pastors who gave up their life jackets to others aboard the sinking ship.

Event organizers said the Legion of Honor Award is presented annually to individuals whose lives encourage the spirit of good will and cooperation among all people without regard to race, religion or creed.



BOOK CLUB

The BOOK CLUB will meet at 7PM on Wednesday,
October 25th at Spring Hill (2323 Edinboro Rd.)

Donna Martin and Ann Townsend will meet us in the lobby.
We'll discuss "Behold the Dreamers", a novel by Imbolo Mbue.



CARING NEWS

The Caring Team is meeting on Tuesday, October 10 at 10:00 in the UUCE office.

Everyone is welcome.

Again, on the third Sunday of the month, October 15, we are making lunches for the Upper Room after the service. Anyone who attends the service that day is encouraged to participate. Last month's donation of lunches was greatly appreciated.

We are having a Card Blitz on Sunday, October 22, after the service in the Olympia Brown Room. Cards and pens will be on the tables, all you have to do is sign the card and address the envelope the team will do the rest. Thanks again for participating in the card blitz, we receive a lot of positive feedback.

Any questions or suggestions call Joanne in the office or Ginny 392-9023.



LET'S TALK TURKEY!!

Our annual collection for funds to help the **West Millcreek Food Pantry** purchase turkeys will take place on Sunday October 15th.

Special envelopes will be included with the order of service that day and will be collected during the regular offering. Any amount you can give is welcome. If writing a check, please make it out to UUCE and write "Millcreek Food Pantry" on the memo line. If you can't attend that day but still want to give, please catch me at church on any Sunday leading up to October 15.

The Pantry is so very grateful for all that our congregation donates!

~Deb DiPlacido

SERV ERIE OPPORTUNITY—SATURDAY OCTOBER 7

We can be part of a LIFE-SAVING EVENT being sponsored by ServErie.

ServErie will be partnering with The American Red Cross to educate about fire safety and provide smoke alarms which we will be able to distribute. This is a public service that our congregation can participate in as well as let others in the community know about our caring congregation. Any questions contact Deb Haire @ bartokk47@roadrunner.com or call 814 520 8173.

The event will take place at Erie Insurance Learning Center 123 East 7th St. Erie, starting at 9 a.m.

More details to come. Please put it on your calendar.



LISTENING AND REFLECTING GATHERINGS

Listening and Reflecting gatherings will begin on October 15, 2017, at 12:15 PM in the sanctuary. A brief opening ceremony will center us in a space of covenant and confidentiality, ground the gathering in Unitarian Universalist principles, and invite awareness of our natural world. Each person will have an opportunity to read a selected quotation related to the monthly Sunday service theme, take time to reflect on the readings, and then offer our reflections to the group. A brief closing ceremony will send us out to the world.

This is a participatory gathering. Please enter the sanctuary, select a slip of paper from the common bowl on the chalice table, and be seated by 12:15. The October theme is "Heresy and Heretics". On the third Sunday in November we will gather around the theme will of "Abundance".

~Dixie Morrow , dixie.morrow44@gmail.com
leemorow@verizon.net



BIOGRAPHY OF OCTOBER 29TH SPEAKER, DR. MICHAEL E. DESANCTIS



Michael E. DeSanctis, Ph.D., holds appointments in both the Fine Arts and Theology programs at Gannon University. He is a four-time recipient of the Student Government Association “Excellence in Teaching” award. Dr. DeSanctis’ scholarly interests lie in the areas of Catholic art and church architecture. He writes widely on the subjects and has been published in numerous, popular and academic periodicals.

Dr. DeSanctis is a member of the Commission on Sacred Art and Architecture for Diocese of Erie and has established an international reputation for his work as a liturgical educator, designer and consultant. To date, Dr. DeSanctis has been involved in more than eighty architectural projects for Christian communities throughout the United States. He is an active supporter of ecumenical dialog and is retained by groups from a variety of religious denominations to help them better understand the role of architecture in liturgical prayer.

In recent years, Dr. DeSanctis’ “avocation” as a designer-fabricator of original three-dimensional depictions of the Nativity has gained him wide recognition. His large-scale projects are scheduled to be featured in the September 2016 issue of the newsletter of “Friends of the Crèche,” the national organization committed to preserving the art and history of crèche-building. He is an accomplished faux-marbleizer and statue repairer and routinely offers these serves to church clients with historic buildings.



SEEKING TREASURES

2017 UUCE Service Auction

Ahoy Mateys! Come aboard the UUCE galleon and sail the high seas with us in search of treasure! We set sail on Saturday, November 11th at 5:30 p.m.

What glorious treasures will we find? Perhaps gold bangles or silver earrings. Maybe we will find silks from the Far East or pottery from the New World. There might be pastries from Paris or tagines from Marrakesh. We might discover tickets to the opera or a jousting competition. No doubt treasures await us!

We are still looking for crew mates for our voyage. Please mateys, volunteer to rig our ship, log our discoveries or work in the galley. There will be plenty of grog but we need you to help supply the grub.

Me hearties, please fill out the attached donation form and return it to the home port. It would also be mighty useful if you could sign up for a job with the crew and bring along some grub.

I look forward to sailing with you and seeking our treasures!

Captain Edie "The Explorer" Cultu



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie *SEEKING TREASURES*

**2017 Service Auction Donation Form
Saturday, November 11, 2017**

DONOR INFORMATION

Name _____
Email _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

SERVICE OR ITEM YOU ARE DONATING FOR AUCTION

Title _____
Description (including number of offerings if applicable) _____

Minimum bid* _____ Estimated value _____

_____ Check here if this is the same service you offered for our last Service Auction.
_____ This item will be available the day of the Service Auction.

SERVICE AUCTION CATALOGS

Catalogs will be emailed (or mailed to those who receive the Beacon via hardcopy) to you.

_____ Check here if you would like a hard-copy of the catalog, which will be available the night of the auction for a \$2.00 donation and included on your auction invoice.

**Service Auction Committee will provide a minimum bid if you don't.
Please note that all offers, if awarded to a bidder, expire November 30, 2018. It is the responsibility of the successful bidder to collect the item or service.*

Interested in something special for the 2017 Service Auction?
Please tell us about it and we will try our best to find a donor for you.

**Please send email with all necessary information to auktion@uuerie.org or return this form to the UUCE office by Monday, October 30.
Get your donation forms in early to make catalog creation less stressful!**

What I Said When My White Friend Asked for My Black Opinion on White Privilege



by Lori Lakin Hutcherson (@goodblacknews) July 14, 2016
(used with permission)

LORI LAKIN HUTCHERSON

is a Los Angeles native, Harvard graduate, former film studio executive, film and television writer/producer, and founder/editor-in-chief of the award-winning website Good Black News. She is also a wife, mother, vegetarian, crossword puzzle enthusiast, nerd, and avid music lover.

Yesterday, I was tagged in a post by an old high school friend, asking me and a few others a very public, direct question about white privilege and racism. I feel compelled to publish not only his query but also my response to it, as it may be a helpful discourse for more than just a handful of folks on Facebook.

Here's his post:

"To all of my black or mixed-race FB friends, I must profess a blissful ignorance of this "white privilege" which I'm apparently guilty of possessing. Not being able to fully put myself in the shoes of someone from a background/race/religion/gender/nationality/body type that differs from my own makes me part of the problem, according to what I'm now hearing.

Despite my treating everyone with respect and humor my entire life (as far as I know), I'm somehow complicit in the misfortune of others. I'm not saying I'm color blind, but whatever racism/sexism/otherism my life experience has instilled in me stays within me, and is not manifested in the way I treat others (which is not the case with far too many, I know).

So that I may be enlightened, can you please share with me some examples of institutional racism that have made an indelible mark upon you? If I am to understand this, I need people I know personally to show me how I'm missing what's going on. Personal examples only. I'm not trying to be insensitive; I only want to understand (but not from the media). I apologize if this comes off as crass or offends anyone."

Here's my response:



Hi Jason,

First off, I hope you don't mind that I've quoted your post and made it part of mine. I think the heart of what you've asked of your friends of color is extremely important and I think my response needs much more space than as a reply on your feed. I truly thank you for wanting to understand what you are having a hard time understanding.

Coincidentally, over the last few days, I have been thinking about sharing some of the incidents of prejudice/racism I've experienced in my lifetime (in fact, I just spoke with my sister Lesa about how to best do this yesterday) because I realized many of my friends, especially the white ones, have no idea what I've experienced/dealt with unless they were present (and aware) when it happened.

There are two reasons for this:

1.) Because not only as a human being do I suppress the painful and uncomfortable, in an effort to make it go away, but I was also taught within my community (I was raised in the '70s and '80s — it's shifted somewhat now) and by society at large NOT to make a fuss, speak out, or rock the boat. To just "deal with it," lest more trouble follow (which, sadly, it often does).

2.) Fear of being questioned or dismissed with "Are you sure that's what you heard?" or "Are you sure that's what they meant?" and being angered and upset all over again by well-meaning but hurtful and essentially unsupportive responses.

So, again, I'm glad you asked, because I really want to answer. But as I do, please know a few things first:

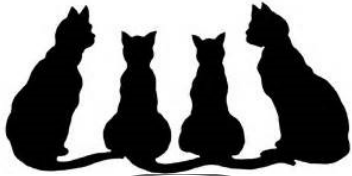
1.) This is not even close to the whole list. I'm cherry picking because none of us has all day.

2.) I've been really lucky. Most of what I share below is mild compared to what others in my family and community have endured.

3.) I'm going to go in chronological order so you might begin to glimpse the tonnage and why what many white folks might feel is a "Where did all of this come from?" moment in society has been festering individually and collectively for the LIFETIME of pretty much every black or brown person living in America today, regardless of wealth or opportunity.

4.) Some of what I share covers sexism, too. Intersectionality is another term I'm sure you've heard and want to put quotes around, but it's a real thing, too, just like white privilege.

Reverend Beth Marshall
minister@uuerie.org



Secretary:

Joanne Davis

Office Hours:

Mondays 8-11 a.m.,

Tues, Wed & Thurs

8 a.m. until 1 p.m.,

Fridays 8 a.m.—noon

Please direct all mail to:

P.O. Box 3495, Erie, PA 16508

Leave Voice Messages

814-864-9300

**We're On The
Web!
uuerie.org**

The Beacon is published monthly.

We welcome your suggestions
and submissions.

**The deadline for articles for the
November issue is
Saturday, October 21.**

Send submissions to:

Joanne@uuerie.org.

Beacon Editor/Layout: Joanne Davis

Content Review: Dr. Regis T. Sabol

Board Liaison: Mary Zuck

To receive future newsletters via
e-mail link or through the mail, please
register with Joanne at 864-9300 or

Joanne@uuerie.org.

Remember, you must register
to receive a newsletter.

Follow us on
twitter

@uuerie



"Please join our Facebook page, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie! Here you can find Sunday Service announcements, upcoming events, conversations, words of inspiration and much more."
For additional information, please contact Kristin Maguire at (krisspina@aol.com).

UUCE Thursday Email Updates

Every Thursday an update of UUCE events and news for the week is sent out via email.

If you would like to be included on the UUCE email mailing list, please contact Joanne@uuerie.org before 9:30 a.m. Thursdays.

October Birthdays

- 07—Linda Duncan
- 13—Bob Guthrie
- 15—Bryan Hed
- 22—Earnest Wood
- 24—Gary Sykes
- 25—Adele Crotty-Gross



Service Attendance:

- 09/03/17—Mass Incarceration: In Search of Justice—Mary Desmone—58 adults
- 09/10/17—Just Water—Rev. Beth Marshall—57 adults and 11 children.
- 09/17/17—More Justice, More Peace—Rev. Beth Marshall.
- 09/24/17—Incarceration and Mental Health—Public Defender Pat Kennedy—



October 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck lunch after the service 1 | Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. Erie Moot 7 p.m. 2 | Homeschool Group 12-2 p.m. Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m. 3 | 4 | Memory Café 1-3 p.m. 5 | 6 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. Erie Sisters 6:30 p.m. 7 |
| Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Whispering Lake Grove business meeting 5 p.m. 8 | Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. PFLAG 7 p.m. 9 | Finance Committee 4:30 p.m. Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m. Sunday Services 6 p.m. Girl Scouts 7-8 p.m. 10 | Fiber Arts Circle 6-9 p.m. 11 | 12 | Adult RE 10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch 12:15 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal 5-6 p.m. 13 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. Wedding 11:30-3:30 p.m. 14 |
| Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Listening and Reflection Session 12:15 15 Upper Room Lunch assembly after the service | Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. 16 | Tuesday Morning Music Club 9:30 a.m.-Noon Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m. 17 | Board of Trustees 5 p.m. 18 | Memory Café 1-3 p.m. 19 | 20 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. Wedding 6-10 p.m. 21 |
| Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Caring Team Card Blitz after the service 22 | Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. 23 | Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m. Girl Scouts 7-8 p.m. 24 | Fiber Arts Circle 6-9 p.m. 25 | 26 | 27 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m. | Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. 28 |
| Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Whispering Lake Grove Samhain Svc. 5 p.m. 29 | Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. 30 | 31 Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m. | | | | |