



Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation of  
Erie

March 2018

# The Beacon

THEME FOR MARCH: COMMITMENT

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

## March 4 Why I Want to Live to Be 120 and Beyond

Speaker: Bob Guthrie

Bob will discuss why he is so optimistic for the future with ever-increasing advances in technology. Musicians: James Pearson and Hannah Olanrewaju.

## March 11 Going Deep and Aiming High

Reverend Beth Marshall

This Sunday we launch the annual pledge campaign with songs and stories. The service will focus our attention on how it is that we can put our faith into action, through support of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.  
Musician: Jackson Froman.

## March 18 What Makes A Life?

Reverend Beth Marshall

This morning's sermon was purchased by Bob Guthrie at the Service Auction and will wrestle with the question of how we define a life. If we create a life form, such as artificial intelligence, does it have inherent worth and dignity as do humans? Is artificial intelligence a life form all its own? Members and friends are invited to return their completed pledge forms during this service. Musician: Jackson Froman.

## March 25 Seedfolks

Adapted from a story by Paul Fleischman. Speaker: Janet Krack

Being part of a garden's emergence from mud and rubble to productivity and harvest can be magical. As we welcome signs of our own gardens' rebirth in blustery March weather, we'll consider what we have in common with gardeners all over the world. How many lives are affected when one person plants a few seeds? 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

Once upon a time, there was a congregation who wanted nothing more than to grow in faith, and to serve its community. This particular congregation had many retired schoolteachers who were members, people who knew how to teach children to read, master the basics of math and understand the mysteries of science and art.

Down the hill from the church, there was a small school, and the congregation thought it might be a logical place to serve, putting all those retired teachers to work doing what they do best – teaching children.

So, after much discussion, the leaders of the congregation set up a meeting with the school principle, so that they could offer their tutoring services to the school. The principle listened patiently, while the church leaders explained in great detail all that they could offer to the children. When the leaders finished speaking, the principle was silent for a moment, forming an appropriate response. The church leaders were not prepared for her answer. “I deeply appreciate your offer to supply tutors for our children. But, quite honestly, we are not in need of more tutors. I am very sorry.” The church leaders sat in stunned silence, not knowing how to respond. They were expecting a different response. After a few moments of silence, one of the church leaders asked simply, “What is it that you do need?” The principle smiled, inhaled, then exhaled deeply. “Well,” she said, “we recently lost our janitor to budget cuts and the toilets need to be cleaned.” To their credit, the church leaders looked at each other, and without missing a beat, responded, “Where do we begin?”

The moral of the story being, that despite our best intentions, the ways we want to serve our communities may not be what is needed most. To be successful, we may need to be willing to put aside our own agendas and expectations, and listen to what the greatest needs really are. We may be surprised, challenged, and in that challenge, find ways to truly serve. And, it may mean cleaning toilets. And that is okay.

There is much work ahead of the congregation. Many good ideas are being generated. I have the deepest faith that by working together, a suitable path will unfold that both makes sense to the congregation and can contribute to substantive change for the good in the broader community.

Rev. Beth



## President's Ponderings

We've had a brief reprieve from the winter weather that has turned our parking lot into a mire. One of my "To Do" list items would appreciate ideas for repairing or replacing the parking lot's surface. Another item is the consideration of ramping up the search process to include the possibility of hiring a full time minister. The Search and Finance Committees and the Board have given this considerable thought and discussion. Finance made up two proposed 2018 – 2019 budgets, considering half or full-time ministry. All agree that full time would be quite the stretch, financially, for the congregation.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the UUPlan's presentation of the Democracy Movement's "Daring Democracy" book tour, this last Monday at our UUCE building. On display was the passion and thoughtful discourse of the current twenty something crowd. Their explanation of the workings and personalities that make up part of the Pennsylvania State Legislature were expansive. They spoke of their non-violent actions, sit-ins at state legislator's offices, videos included. They are trying to change/influence the votes of Pa legislators. Check them out at their facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1713678288683182/>

~Thank you, Doug

## OPERATION TEDDY BEAR

We are collecting NEW stuffed animals to send down to the Riverglades Elementary School in the Parkland School District\*



Let's show these kids and their families that there is love much greater than hate in the world.

*Stuffed animals can be dropped off at the Temple.*

*Financial donations are also welcome.*

*Temple Anshe Hesed~ 930 Liberty Street~ Erie, PA 16502*

**Collection will run until Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

\* Our connection with Riverglades is Rabbi Emily's cousin Kevra is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher there.

## March Book Club

The BOOK CLUB will meet at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 28th at Janet Krack's home.

We'll discuss "Grandma Gatewood's Walk", the inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail by Ben Montgomery.





## ***Pennies from You and Me for the UUCE*** **Stewardship Campaign**

Beginning with a kickoff service by Rev. Beth on March 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be conducting our annual stewardship campaign. Our theme, *Pennies from You and Me*, represents the need for pledging sufficient funds to support a full-time minister and carry out the mission and vision of our congregation. During the first week of March you will be contacted by mail, or in person, on how you can be a part of this exciting yearly funding effort. Through our collective efforts we will reach our budget goals. We have done it before, and we can do it again!

During our pledge drive from March 11<sup>th</sup>--April 8th, you will be asked to make a generous pledge to help carry us into the future of our congregation. This has been an exciting year! We have continued to benefit from the excellent ministry of part-time minister, Rev. Beth Marshall. Now the ministerial Search Committee is working toward the goal of hopefully supporting a full-time ministry for our congregation. We have had 2 part time ministers since 2014 and believe now may be the right time to commit to a full-time minister. This will take major dedication by all members and friends to personally pledge at an increase of ten percent to achieve our goal.

Let's continue our positive growth! Let's continue as a shining light within our congregation and for the people in our community! Please pledge the most you are able to support the financial health of our congregation.



**Please do your best to help us add an abundance of *Pennies from You and Me for the UUCE* to hire a full-time, professional Unitarian Universalist minister for our beloved congregation. It's up to all of us! We can do it! Thank you! Remember to return your completed pledge form on March 18, we will celebrate together during coffee hour.**

The Stewardship Team of Leigh Kostis and Edie Cultu

## Notes from the RE Chalkboard

Thank you everyone for your contributions to the children's fundraiser for EARS: The Erie Area Rabbit and Rescue Society.

In January, we successfully collected TWO TRUNKLOADS of newspapers!

In February, we successfully collected over 6 feet tall of 12 packs of paper towel rolls!

For March, we will be collecting 30 gallon black garbage bags. Last chance for you to make your donations to this worthy program!

The children and the buns appreciate the congregation's support in our endeavors to keep the rabbits "hoppy" and well-cared for! Trivia Question: Which color rabbit is the least likely to be adopted? Find an elementary aged child, and with parent permission, ask them for the answer to this question.

Monetary donations for EARS are due to Susan Galle-Boyko by Sunday, March 4, 2018. Checks can be made payable to UUCE with "EARS FUNDRAISER" in the memo line. If you or your child raised \$25 each for the shelter, 100% of your donation will be given to the shelter. Please see Susan to let her know your shirt size and color selection. Shirts are thank you gifts from our RE program to you for your monetary donation, and NONE of your donated money pays for the shirts. As we wind down our program in May, we look forward to a final visit from our bunny friends!

In April we look forward to celebrating Earth Day with you on Sunday, April 22. Please make sure your middle school and elementary aged children are attending ALL APRIL CLASSES for our liturgy preparations.

That doesn't mean we don't have lots of fun things planned for March, of course! Included in the "March Madness", the middle school and high school programs take turns with coffee hour service learning. Please keep in mind that we have children with various allergies to nuts, pineapple, and gluten. Program-family donations that you and your child can supply on their designated coffee-hour day include fruit, cheese, gluten-free crackers, and gluten-free salsa and chips. You are more than welcome to supply any item for your coffee hour donation as long as it is marked with a list of ingredients.

Finally for our teen program, they will be working in May on their June liturgy service to share with you all that they have learned in their program. Mary Desmone and John Galle-Boyko will keep you and your teen posted on this event.

Peace and Blessings,

Susan Galle-Boyko



## **NEW Adult RE “Owning Our Religious Past”**

**Beginning March 16,  
10 a.m.**

This workshop provides some simple tools through which people may reexamine and retrieve positive aspects of past religious connections. It addresses the affective elements of these connections, rather than dogma. The workshop is designed to provide both group sharing and private exploration, using journal writing exercises.

The plan is for four sessions, once a month, contingent upon a possible candidate week with a new minister as well as the annual Yard Sale.



## **Chocolate Paired With Art Tour at the Erie Art Museum! - Saturday, March 10 at 3 p.m.**

Come for a sweet experience! Museum Education Director, Kelly Armor, will pair four different kinds of Romolo chocolates with four exquisite works of art. Look at beautiful art, savor chocolate that matches the work in some delightful way, and enjoy how your taste buds and intellect dance! Several congregants purchased this at the Service Auction and there are still a few spots available. \$10/person and all proceeds support the UUCE.

## **Caring Team News**

*Caring---about people, about things, about life---  
is an act of maturity.*  
~Tracy Mc Millan

Thanks to all the people who helped prepare and pack the lunches for the Upper Room on Sunday, February 18. You helped bring a little happiness to some people who don't get a lot of kindness. The next lunch date is March 18.

Annette and I prepared and delivered minestrone soup, toasted cheese sandwiches, peaches and cookies to the Upper Room. Thank you to Wendy Ormond for buying and cutting up the vegetables. The next dinner is Saturday, March 24.

The card blitz is scheduled for Sunday, March 18. Please take a minute or two during coffee hour to sign a few cards for our congregants.

The next caring meeting is Monday, March 12, at the UUCE office. In addition to planning meals and so forth we will discuss how we can help with the UUCE support of common sense gun regulations.

The caring committee has some good news, Annette has a new puppy, and he is 3 months old. He is about the size of a Chihuahua and is just as cute as a button.

Have a splendid March,

Ginny Sabol

## Reverend Sarah Barber-Braun

The Board of the UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association joins the Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Sarah Barber-Braun, who died on December 17, 2017 at the age of 92.

She is survived by children Julia Roth, Paula Braun, and Daniel Braun; grandchildren Tegan Spangrude, Carl Spangrude, David Braun, and Andrea Braun; and brother John McGrew (Wendy).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Unity Church – Unitarian, [733 Portland Ave, St Paul, MN 55104](https://www.unitychurchstpaul.org/).

A celebration of life was held on August 12 with Rev. Barber-Braun in attendance.

Notes of condolence can be sent to Julia Roth at 1963 Split Mountain, Canyon Lake, TX 78133.

A more complete obituary will be forthcoming after biographical research has been completed. If any readers would wish to contribute information or reminiscences, we would welcome them. Please send them to UURMaPA's clergy obituary editor, Jay Atkinson - [jayatk40@gmail.com](mailto:jayatk40@gmail.com).

Judy Gibson, Secretary, for the UURMaPA Board



### *March Hospitality*

Our first three Sundays' hospitality activities are being brought to us through the efforts of our R.E. Committee,

our Teens and Middle School R.E. students.

Our final Coffee Hour will be brought to us by Kelly Armor, Mary Szpara, and Deb DiPlacido.

Please join us for these gatherings. Join me in thanking all these friends for volunteering!

Also note that April's Potluck will be a finger-food buffet. We have no volunteers scheduled for that date because it is a holiday for many. Please bring your finger-food on a plate from home, ready to serve.

Reverend Beth Marshall  
minister@uuerie.org

Follow us on  
**twitter**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

@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 (krisspins@aol.com).

**Secretary:**

Joanne Davis  
Office Hours:  
Mondays and Fridays,  
8-11:30 a.m.  
Tues, Wed & Thurs  
8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**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  
April issue is**

**Saturday, March 17.**

Send submissions to:

Joanne@uuerie.org.

Beacon Editor/Layout: Joanne Davis

Content Review: Dr. Regis T. Sabol

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.

**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.

## March Birthdays

01—Emma Woods Nathanson

04—Peggy Richardson

06—Chris Cedzo

08—Rick Haire

15—Amelia Steinbrink

16—Lauren Galle-Boyko

16—Matthew Maguire

18—Richard Morley

18—Mary Zuck

23—Herta Danowski

23—Mary Desmone

26—Ray Sherman

27—Tammy Blount

28—Jim Wise



**Service Attendance:**

02/04/18—Channeling Our Positivity—Members of our Buddhist Sangha—

52 adults, 4 children.

02/11/18—Beneath the Masks, Beyond the Beads—Rev. Beth Marshall—45 adults, 8 children.

02/18/18—Out of the Mouths of Fools—Rev. Beth Marshall—62 adults, 8 children.

02/25/18—On Being a Light in a Dark World—Michael Long—52 adults, 16 children.



# March 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Memory Café 1-3 p.m.	2 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m.	3 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. QiGong 9:30-10:30 a.m.
4 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck lunch after the service	5 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. Erie Moot 7 p.m.	6 Homeschool Group 12-2 p.m.  Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m.	7 Finance Committee 4:15 p.m.  Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	8	9 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m.	10 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. QiGong 9:30-10:30 a.m. Keystone Progress 1-5 p.m.
11 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  Listening and Reflecting Session after the service	12 Caring Team 10 a.m. Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. PFLAG 7 p.m.	13 Sunday Services Committee 4 p.m.  Girl Scouts 6:30-8 p.m. Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m.	14 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	15 Memory Café 1-3 p.m.	16 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m.	17 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. QiGong 9:30-10:30 a.m. 
18 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. and return pledge forms. Caring Team Card Blitz and Lunch Prep for the Upper Room. Whispering lake Grove Spring Equinox Service 5 p.m.	19 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. Tuesday Morning Music Club Rehearsal 1-3 p.m.	20 Tuesday Morning Music Club 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m.	21 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	22	23 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m.	24 Upper Room Dinner Prep 8:30 a.m. Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. QiGong 9:30-10:30 a.m. RPG Game Day Noon-6 p.m.
25 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.	26 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m.	27 Girl Scouts 6:30-8 p.m.  Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6:30-9 p.m.	28 Garden Club 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	29	30 Atheist and Agnostic Community 6:30 p.m.	31 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. QiGong 9:30-10:30 a.m.