



June 2019

# The Beacon

Theme for June: Transitions

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

## June 2 Intimacy, Housework, and Art

Guest Speaker, Suzanne Proulx (see her work on page 7)

Suzanne Proulx is on the art faculty at Edinboro University and she exhibits her work nationally. She challenges herself with using non-traditional materials, creating cow skulls out of milk jugs, casting her children's hands in soap, turning literal dust bunnies into rabbit sculptures, and painstakingly embroidering portraits using human hair. She'll speak about her artistic process, how it relates to the monthly theme transitions, and what she finds fascinating about the humble ephemera of our lives. Music provided by James Pearson and Hannah Olanrewaju.

## June 9 Is 'God' the Seventh Principle?

Guest Speaker Rev. Alex Holt (biography on page 7)

Unitarian Universalists often struggle with the concept of God. What if the entire concept were reframed as our 7th Principle: "... the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part"? What answer might we give if asked "Do you believe in God?" Is it really about relationship? Service Coordinator: Al Richardson. Musician: Jackson Froman.

## June 16 Transitions and Transformations

Guest Speaker: Michael DeSanctis, PhD (biography on page 7)

How we change our place and presence in the world (and how they end up changing us.) Service Assistant: Julie Maguire.

## June 23 The Morrigan Project

Guest Speaker: Christine Serfozo

Whether seemingly minor or major, all grief needs recognition and community and processing time to be productively integrated into our human experience and our personal growth. The Morrigan Project is a process for working in community through movement art to express and transform grief, whether it be something that recently happened or something from long ago. Christine Serfozo and her movement artists will be explaining the process and demonstrating what has come of it. We'll also create a community ritual for everyone to participate in (it will be simple and meaningful). Please bring a framed photo of someone you are missing or a symbolic item of any grief you would like to acknowledge (if you feel inclined).

## June 30 Pride- Beyond Understanding

Rev. Charlie Dieterich

This month the LGBTQ+ communities celebrate their transitions from silence to awareness and from fear to joy. I will share a bit of my story and how everyone can join in the dance.



**Minister:**

**Reverend Charlie Dieterich**

**President:**

**Doug Russell**

**UUCE Board Secretary:**

**John Galle-Boyko**

**UUCE Board Members:**

**Mary Beth McCarthy**

**Julie Maguire**

**Melanie Hetzel-Riggin**

**Ron Brown**

**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



Transitions.

*To acknowledge and cross a new threshold is always a challenge. It demands courage and also a sense of trust in whatever is emerging. This becomes essential when a threshold opens suddenly in front of you, one for which you had no preparation.*

~ John O' Donohue (To Bless the Space Between Us)

One year ago, this congregation was celebrating and saying good bye to Rev. Beth Marshall, trained interim minister and half time minister to the UU Congregation of Erie. Then in August, you said hi to me, your called minister, working half-time. The transition from interim ministry to settled ministry has meant some shifting from present-focus to future-focus and a year of learning about each other.

This has also been a year of transition in our Congregation as stalwart leaders such as our Director of Religious Education Susan Galle-Boyko and Sunday Services Committee chair Leigh Kostis made this their last year leading program areas. It has been a blessing that they stayed the course for a year, allowing me to learn how UU Erie functions and for others to prepare for the new.

These days there is a science of Transitions, rather like a science of grief. Just as those experiencing loss or dying may go through stages of grief (there is a lively discussion of what those stages or tasks actually are), so too, transitions have a "usual" trajectory, with reactions like shock, denial, anger, depression and also hope, perseverance and even joy. When a new minister comes, there is loss of the old ways and relationships, and some yearn to bring back the good old days.

The many yesterdays of memory cannot all fit into the container of today. As Kahlil Gibran wrote, "For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday." I thank you all for teaching me the ways this congregation does things, and I have tried to limit changes to "changing the things I can" and accepting what cannot be changed. To meet and listen to as many in the congregation as possible (given my half-time restriction.)

Our June theme is "Transitions," an opportunity to reflect on the road ahead. After many years of thinking about or experiencing ministerial transition, can we shift to shared mission? After years of scarcity, especially scarcity of energy and leaders, can we shift to an attitude of abundance? Can we let go of things that require more effort or do not further our vision while concentrating on those that do?

The theme was chosen for June because this is the month of children leaving home, of putting away the snow blower and taking out the lawn mower, of travel or concerts in the park. It is also Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Pride month, celebrating the awareness of community that started at the time of the Stonewall riots June 28, 1969, and has continued to today.

I will be leading the service on June 30<sup>th</sup>, but I don't want it to be "my" service. I hope to have other voices from the congregation's LGBTQ+ community speaking on June 30. Please contact me, e-mail is best, and we will find a way to teach, to celebrate and to join together. Happy Pride.

~Rev. Charlie

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

I'm currently visiting family in Montana. It has been quite a lovely distraction from the everyday.

When I left, the Stewardship Campaign was winding down and appears to be short of the Board and Finances Committee goals. There will be trimming of the proposed 2019 – 2020 budget. Not sure if this a reflection of the economic times of our area or a reaction to the path taken by the leadership and membership of the last few years, led by yours truly. There will be an opportunity for the membership to answer these and other questions brought by the results of the past year.

After two terms, six years on the board, 3 1/2 years as president, I'm not re-upping for another term. The yearly Nominating Committee has been re-formed and is considering possible nominees for three board vacancies, Treasurer and Memorial Garden Chair. Now would be the time to become active in the governing of the UUCE and helping set a future course. With a new minister, changing demographics and possible expectations, new leadership is needed. Thank you Wendy Ormond and John Boyko for your service on the board the past three years. Your counsel, with the other board members, made the job of president palatable.

Thank you Christine Cedzo for your meticulous work as Treasurer which always gave the Finance Committee and UUCE Board a solid foundation to consider financial actions. Thank you Janet Krack for another term as Memorial Garden Chair. Members of the UUCE should hear the history of the Garden from Janet. It is quite the tribute to a past UUCE couple.

It is time for the UUCE membership to step up and contribute to the future of the UUCE. Please consider becoming a candidate for one of these positions. Off to Glacier National Park with the grandchildren. Back at it on Sunday.

~Doug



**Be sure to welcome four new members to our congregation, seekers who have found at UUCE a place to grow and learn, and belong to a vibrant, loving community:**

**Beth Ann Kopay,  
Jane Mallory,  
Aubrey Hohman,  
and Garrett Lindahl.**

**We look forward to sharing time and making new memories together!**

## JUNE BOOK CLUB

### Date

June 26

### Time

7 PM

### Place

home of Diana  
Ferguson  
(814-480-8475)

### Book

Lily Dale  
by Christine Wicker



## YARD SALE UPDATE

As the yard sale approaches - please, please commit to participating. Even if your time, mobility, stamina, or energy are limiting factors, know that there is a place for you in this extended congregational and community event. Set-up begins on Sunday, June 9, with the stacking of chairs in the sanctuary and setting up of sale tables there and in the Olympia Brown room and in the classrooms. The church will be open from noon until 9 Monday through Wednesday for receiving donations and moving them to the departments.

If you are donating items, please make sure to have them in the church by Wednesday evening. Your responses on the survey regarding last year's sale and our experiences in 2018 indicate that pricing on Thursday was unduly difficult because stuff was still appearing on the shelves, and workers stayed way too late to get it all done. Remember, the same department leaders and organizers who finish on Thursday night come back at 7 AM Friday for final preparations before customers get numbers at 8 AM.

The other "spirit killer" happened on Saturday when there were not enough fresh people to pack left-overs, take down tables, and clean and reset the sanctuary. Saturday afternoon would be a great time for a new gang to appear!. If you put your name on a worker form that says you will be here at 2 on Saturday, you will make a lot of people very happy!

The kitchen will be supplied with sandwich fixins, snacks, and drinks so workers can take a break and re-energize whenever you wish.

Anyone who has a lawn cart or other device that can be used to carry items to departments is asked to lend it during the set-up days. We want to reduce the fatigue and weariness that comes with too many footsteps and hand-carried loads. Items come in mixed lots. If we can sort them near the door into boxes and onto carts for the departments, we should reduce the number of trips to final destinations.

A final point: please promise that when you are fatigued, you will go home. We want to see you on Sunday morning, June 16, rested and well.



## Chautauqua institution 2019

June 22—August 25

### The 2019 Summer Sunday Speaker Schedule

The UU Fellowship of Chautauqua is pleased to present a group of outstanding speakers on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Hall of Philosophy.

Week One	Rev. Michael McGee	Minister Emeritus, UU Church of Arlington, VA
Week Two	Rev. Frank Hall	Minister Emeritus, Unitarian Church of Westport, CT
Week Three	Mandy Goheen	Director of CLF Prison Ministry & Worthy Now Network, Church of the Larger Fellowship, Boston MA
Week Four	Rev. Jacqueline Brett	Minister of Congregational Engagement, Eno River UU Fellowship, Durham, NC
Week Five	Rev. Anthony David Makar	Senior Minister, UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA
Week Six	Chautauqua Award Recipient	2019 CHQ Award Recipient, Meadville Lombard Student
Week Seven	Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones	Senior Minister, Mainline Unitarian Church, Devon, PA
Week Eight	Rev. Kathleen A. Green	Exec. Director of the Yale Humanist Community, Yale University
Week Nine	Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel	Minister, UU Fellowship of Centre County, State College, PA
Week Ten	Rev. J. Charles Brock	Minister, UU Fellowship of Girard, PA

### The 2019 UU Ethics Lecture Series

The Ethical Lecture Series for the 2019 Season, sponsored by the Department of Religion and presented by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, will take place during **Week Three** in the Hall of Philosophy from 9:30am – 10:30am.

The Series this season is being presented in cooperation with The Collaborative Union that is bringing Homeboys to Chautauqua.

**Monday** – Rev. Mandy Goheen, Director of CLF Prison Ministry & Worthy Now Network, Church of the Larger Fellowship

**Tuesday** – Participants from Homeboy Industries

**Wednesday** – Justice David A. Thompson, Justice of the California Court of Appeals

**Thursday** – Participants from Homeboy Industries

**Friday** – Angela James, Photojournalist



## **BUILD A BRIDGE TO TOMORROW UUCE 2019-20 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

Our annual stewardship campaign began on April 7 with a Sunday service kickoff by Rev. Charlie Dieterich. The following Sunday we held “return your pledge” Sunday and collected pledges over the next five weeks. The Board of Trustees requested a pledge income of \$118,250. The Stewardship Team set a goal of \$120,000. The stewardship team hoped that we could reach last year’s successful campaign of \$127,000. As of May 29, as a community, we have pledged \$108,001 for the 2019 -20 fiscal year. Here are the highlights of the campaign.

- Letters mailed and contacts made with 111 pledge units who have pledged in the last 2 years, including 6 new possible pledge units.
- 69 total pledges have been returned for a return percentage of 62%.
- 35% of these pledges were increases; 46% remained the same amount as last year; 14% of these were decreased pledges; 4% were new pledges.

Yet to be returned are ten pledges from people who pledged last year. Based on last year’s pledges they total approximately \$7,000. We still hope to collect some of these pledges to get closer to our goal. Even with these pledges collected, we will still be short \$3,250 of the board request and \$5000 short of the stewardship pledge drive goal.

We are very grateful to everyone who participated in making this campaign a success. We thank Bryan Hed, Lynne Brown, Michele Paich, and Bob Guthrie for their testimonies and Bryan Hed for the music during the April 14 service. We are thankful for all those who pledged, increased their pledge, and returned their pledges on time; we are blessed with the generosity of our new friends who make their first pledges to our congregation; and we are especially thankful to Joanne Davis, our loyal church administrator, who greatly assisted us in all aspects of this campaign.

If for any reason you have still not had the opportunity to pledge or want to increase your pledge, please contact Joanne Davis in the church office. We will be grateful for your support!

~Edie Cultu and Leigh Kostis, Stewardship Campaign Co-chairs

## OUR GUEST SPEAKER JUNE 2

**Suzanne Proulx** is on the art faculty at Edinboro University and she exhibits her work nationally. She challenges herself with using non-traditional materials, creating cow skulls out of milk jugs, casting her children's hands in soap, turning literal dust bunnies into rabbit sculptures, and painstakingly embroidering portraits using human hair.



## BIOGRAPHY OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER JUNE 9

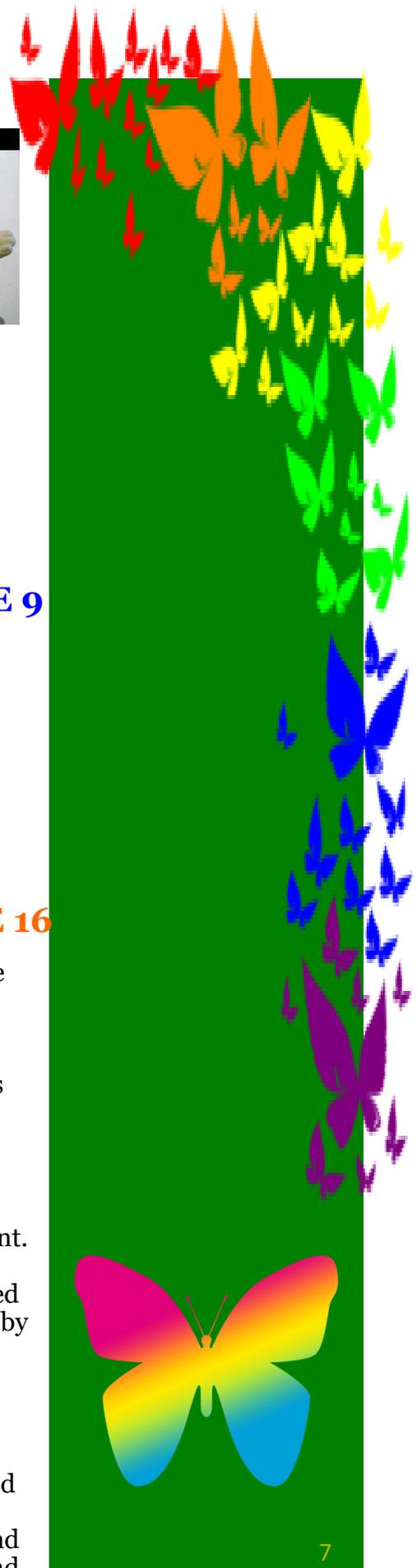
**Rev. Alex Holt** is a long time UU minister, graduating in 1993 from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He grew up on a farm in Maine. For many years he worked in transitions ministry and helped begin the UUA Addictions Ministry program. In his 16th year of recovery from alcoholism, he currently is in Oregon where his life partner, Debra, is a full time Buddhist chaplain. Debra and Alex have been Buddhist practitioners since 1996.

## BIOGRAPHY OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER JUNE 16

**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 services to church clients with historic buildings.



Reverend Charles Dieterich  
minister@uuerie.org

**Secretary:**

Joanne Davis  
Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
8-11:30 a.m.

Tues. & Thurs., 8 a.m. until 2 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  
July issue is**

**Saturday, June 15.**

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.

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An **LGBTQ** Welcoming Congregation

Find us on 

Ask us about 



**Visitors to UUCE**  
are invited to the  
Welcome Circle, a table  
outside the sanctuary, to  
enjoy conversation and  
refreshments after  
Sunday services.

**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.

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).

**June Birthdays**

06—Katrina Hurlburt  
11—Roberta McCall  
11—Joan August  
13—Diane Guthrie  
13—Ella Riggin  
14—Ryan Cedzo  
15—Marge Wander  
15—Audrey Steinbrink  
22—Cathay Kramer  
23—Jan Woods  
25—Willow Hurlburt  
26—Deb Cable



**Service Attendance:**

04/07/19—You Cannot Stay in Egypt—Rev. Charlie—40 adults, 10 children.  
04/14/19—Spirituality—Mark Tanenbaum—50 adults, 6 children.  
04/21/19—And Then One Day—Rev. Charlie—44 adults, 0 children.  
04/28/19—Earth Day—Re Children and Teachers—43 adults, 8 children.  
05/05/19—I Think Therefore I Am—Regis Sabol—49 adults, 7 children.  
05/12/19—Ritual, Pilgrimage and Enlightenment—Rev. Charlie—35 adults, 5 children.  
05/19/19—Flower Communion—Rev. Charlie—68 adults, 13 children.  
05/29/19—America Will Be—Amanda Hays—42 adults, 2 children.



# June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30-10:30 a.m.
2 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck lunch after the service Kate Buczek Memorial Concert 4 p.m.	3 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. Erie Moot 7 p.m.	4 Homeschool Group 12-3 p.m. Yard Sale Meeting 5:30 p.m.	5 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	6 Memory Café 1-3 p.m.	7 Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. Linda Kobler Recital 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	8 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30-10:30 a.m.
9 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>YARD SALE SETUP</b>						
16 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.	17 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. Finance Committee 5 p.m.	18	19 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m. One Table Steering Committee 4 p.m. Board of Trustees 5 p.m.	20 Memory Café 1-3 p.m.	21 Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m.	22 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30-10:30 a.m. Erie Sisters 6:30 p.m.
23 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Whispering Lake Grové 5 p.m.	24 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m.	25 Homeschool Group 12-3 p.m. Sunday Services 2 p.m.	26 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	27	28 Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m.	29 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. Tai Chi 9:30-10:30 a.m.
30 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting at Noon						