

October 2019



**Minister:**  
Reverend Charlie Dieterich

**President:**  
Julie Maguire

**Vice President:**  
Melanie Hetzel-Riggin

**UUCE Board Secretary:**  
Ron Brown

**UUCE Board Members:**  
Mary Beth McCarthy  
Annette Krusewicz  
Steve Sullivan  
Blair Tuttle



# The Beacon

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

**Theme for October: Working Together**

## October 6 Our Imagination Made Real: Art and Our Congregation

*Guest Speakers: Tom Ferraro and Ed Grout (biographies on page 9)*

Erie artists Tom Ferraro and Ed Grout will explain the Looking Glass Project that will happen at UUCE over the fall and winter. Under their leadership, the members and friends of UUCE will create a collaborative art piece for the long wall in the Olympia Brown Room that reflects us, our history, our aspirations, and our vision. Tom and Ed, cofounders of the Looking Glass Art Project, are active Erie artists. Service Coordinator: Al Richardson. Musician: Kelly Armor. Potluck lunch after the service.

## October 13 Annual Joint Service

*Speaker: Dale McBrier from the First UU Church of Girard (biography on page 9)*

This year, UUCE will host our neighbors from Girard. Rev. Charlie will assist, Jackson Froman and the UUCE Choir will provide music.

## October 20 Rewards of Working Together

*Rev. Charlie Dieterich.*

"I want to be with people who... move in a common rhythm when the food must come in or the fire be put out," writes Mary Oliver. But what do those people get out of the exercise? My annual Auction Sermon topic was proposed by Bob Guthrie. Jackson Froman will provide music, and we will welcome new members to our community!

## October 27 Halloween!

*Rev. Charlie and our DRE Candace Williams.*

This is an all ages service with some special activities as well. Young and old are invited to bring pumpkins for carving after the service. Jackson Froman on piano.

### 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

What are we working FOR? Our theme for October is "Working Together," and this has caused me to ask a deeper question... What are we working for? What is our shared goal?

We can look to our Mission Statement which says who we are, and that we Inspire, Connect and Act. That's a good start. Our Vision Statement has a few more specifics. We are "sharers" and "nurturers." We are "welcomers" and "a strong presence." Even our Bond of Union says we are people who "study and practice", "establish ourselves" and "promote."

What are we working for?

A common reaction to that question is to find a project and adopt it. We are the people who feed homeless persons. Or we build houses for those people. I don't buy it. Giving handouts is an effective way of maintaining the status quo, maintaining systems of oppression.

Maybe that's your goal, but it's not mine. Raising money for a cute child who needs a transplant does not address the fundamental question of why our society is not a loving society, providing the best healthcare for all as a matter of human right? Why would individually compassionate people be cruel when it comes to health care, or prosecution of rapists or those who cheat others? Why is our justice system based on retribution rather than reform? Why are we not fundamentally working together to create Beloved Community in Erie, in Pennsylvania, in the USA and in the world?

The Climate Strike rallies across the world struck a chord with me. Young people spoke their minds, passionately and desperately. You old people have enjoyed this world, but you were not good stewards of the planet. We are working so that we can enjoy the world as well, and are working to teach that all must be good stewards, as well. The time of excuses is past.

Over the summer I learned even more about how racist our laws have been. And changing to non-racist laws cannot restore the established racism of the past. Racism informs our cruel health system-- give those people health care? Never! Racism informs our housing inequality-- give those people good schools? Never! Racism informs our planet exploitation, buying goods from polluting countries in the name of Capitalism. The excuses live on as custom... racist custom.

OK, I am not the best spokesperson for any of these things. And I do not believe that "we" should adopt any one of these issues as our project. I want us to go bigger.

Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman is quoted as advising a young man: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." Members of our congregation going off to work with the UN, or to be opera singers or community organizers-- doing what makes them come alive – that is how I would measure success. To me the mission of this congregation might become:

Our mission is :

To create supportive community for our principles,

To ignite the fire of commitment in each,

To nurture imagination

So that together we might transform our world into beloved community.

What are we working for? We don't know.

How will we get there? We are not certain.

All that we know is that our spheres of influence- Congregation, County, State and beyond all need Unitarian Universalists who have come alive.

Can we, together, work on this?

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

As a teacher, my favorite classroom moments were not when the room was quiet enough to hear a pin drop (although those rare times were very sweet). My favorite classroom moments were not when the enthusiastic sounds of children learning reverberated off the walls (although those more commonly-occurring times often made me smile). My favorite classroom moments were when the children were actively working together and their voices created a soft, steady hummmmm. Only when I silently approached a huddled group could I hear them solving a problem or creating a presentation.

I am now finding that the work of the congregation has a similar sound to the soft, steady hum of an engaged classroom. On September 15, we had the chance to learn about many of the ways our congregation works together to make our religious home welcoming to visitors, friends, and members alike. We learned about many different ways we can make connections with each other and our community within and outside our building. Throughout the month, we saw our building being transformed, inside and outside, with new carpeting, painting, and gardening projects. Committees were formed and revitalized. Through the tireless efforts of Dixie Morrow and Joanne Davis, our Breeze Church Management Software is now being activated. Thanks to the forward-thinking of Doug Russell, we can now use that software to work together more efficiently. On an almost daily basis, Doug continues to contribute to the upkeep of our building and our congregation in ways too numerous to mention. The Global Climate Strike in Erie drew many Unitarian Universalists who gathered to talk and to listen about the impact of climate change on our planet. New members joined our congregation and shared their willingness to uphold the seven principles and our liberal religious traditions.

October will bring many more opportunities for us to work together on projects near and far. On October 6, we will learn about the next step in our aesthetics team's plan to enhance our Olympia Brown Room and our congregation's connections through the Looking Glass Project. The chairs of each of our committees will meet on October 16 to find ways we can improve communications among all the groups that are hard at work in their different spheres. At our Congregational Meeting on October 20, at 12:00, we will discuss the important topics that will shape our congregation in the coming months.

With all of these activities and many, many more that our congregation undertakes, our Sunday Service theme for October of "Working Together" will be evident everywhere you look. Thank you all for everything you do to keep our congregation humming along!

Happy October!

~Julie Maguire





**Halloween Spooktacular**  
**All Ages Pumpkin**  
**Carving Party**

BYOP to the UUCE  
on Sunday,  
October 27th after the  
Upper Room lunches  
are packed  
Come and express  
your creativity at a  
frightfully fun and  
festive pre-Halloween  
gathering with  
Reverend Charlie.

Bring your pumpkin  
to church on the 27th  
and

Join us if you dare, it will be a  
scary good time!



**NOTES FROM THE RE CHALKBOARD**

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

I just don't have enough thank you's for those of you that have volunteered to help out with the RE program. Thank you also to those who stop to chat with our youth. It means a lot to them and helps them feel included in our congregation. They feel important when you take the time to get to know them.

The Education Committee has been hard at work preparing for this new year. Michelle Jaggi was gracious enough to lend her talents to the new RE brochure and I must say, it looks amazing (brochures can be found in the pamphlet rack)! If you get the chance, give her a little shout out! If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to check it out, grab a few and pass them along – we would love to encourage new families to give us a try.

In the classrooms, things are starting to come together! We had our first official class where name tags were made (thanks, Leigh Kostis for your name tag design!), games were played and everyone got a chance to get to spend some time with one another. So many changes after a great summer! During the month of October, both groups will be selecting their social justice projects and will begin the process of learning how to implement their project. During one service a month, the teen class (assisted by the elementary class) will do a small presentation of their social justice project and the progress they have made.

And last, but not least, if you think you might be able to help out, but think you don't have enough time, let me know! We can always work around your other commitments and there are always positions available as a second in one of the classes. Not much work is required, just an extra helping hand!

~Candace Williams

## CONFERENCE AT UUCE NOVEMBER 2!



Central East  
Region

# Money Mythbusters



A Stewardship Conference

**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

9:30 Registration

10:00 Opening and Keynote

11:00 Small Group Discussions

12:00 Lunch with Role-Based Tables

1-2:30: Workshops

- How to Train your Visiting Stewards (Patricia Infante)
- Changing Community Culture Around Money (Elizabeth Ann Terry)
- Stewardship and the Path to Membership (Karen Lapidus)
- Talking About Your Congregation's Finances (Renee Ruchotzke)

2:45 Panel Discussion - Experiences with Covenant and Generosity

3:30 Taking It Home

4:00 Safe Travels

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/MoneyMyth2019>

**UU Congregation of Erie**

7180 Perry Highway

Erie, PA, 16509

## Keynote

With Elizabeth Ann Terry

# Money is.....

Elizabeth is fascinated by the power of religious institutions to have meaningful impacts on their communities. She has been a witness to congregations who apply the principles of asset-based community



development and appreciative inquiry to move their congregations and communities into bright and purposeful futures.

With nearly 50 years of providing training, technical assistance and consulting to nonprofit organizations and congregations her intention is to continue to be of service to communities of faith who believe that collective gifts of the head, heart, and hands can change to world. Currently Elizabeth serves you as the congregational giving specialist at your Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. She is a member of the board of directors of Forward Together, the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina and a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington (NC).

**Watch Her Video:**

<https://youtu.be/lhQhGZSWgPk>

**\$35 / Person**

OR

**\$100 / Church Team**

**Please contact Mary Beth McCarthy at [mbp1@psu.edu](mailto:mbp1@psu.edu) or Joanne in the office at [joanne@uuerie.org](mailto:joanne@uuerie.org) if you would like to be a part of the church team for this conference.**

The board has decided to cover the \$100 fee for participation, but needs the names of those on the team before registration.

# A BAZAAR OF BARGAINS

## UUCE SERVICE AUCTION



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 5:30 – 8:30 PM**

It is time to prepare for our upcoming Bazaar of Bargains. Our UUCE Service Auction will take place on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30. We need to collect all the great bargains that will be offered in our bazaar.

What special treasures will you offer for sale? Do you have pearl earrings or gold bangles? Perhaps you have magic lanterns or copper kettles? What unique services can you offer to interested buyers? Can you teach them how to train their camel or offer belly dancing lessons? Can you take them on a magic carpet ride or charm their snakes? What delicious food can you offer to our hungry customers? Perhaps some vegetable couscous or chicken tagine? Will you make baklava or crème caramel? Certainly, you have much to offer at our UUCE bazaar?

This is the time when you can help prepare for our bazaar of bargains by offering your donations for our service auction. **Please fill out the donation form** which comes as an attachment to this Beacon. Please return it by October 28<sup>th</sup> to the church office or the basket in the Olympia Brown room.

We can offer child care for those 5 and under, but Candace Williams needs to know in advance to arrange for child care. Please inform her by October 28th.

You can also sign up to help that day. We need help setting up, working in the kitchen and cleaning up. Please offer to help. To volunteer or for questions, you may contact Michele Paich (460-4138) or Edie Cultu ([edie\\_cultu@yahoo.com](mailto:edie_cultu@yahoo.com)). We hope you will join us the evening of November 9<sup>th</sup> to experience the fun and flavors of a Bazaar of Bargains.

Michele Paich and Edie Cultu



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie A BAZAAR OF BARGAINS

**2019 Service Auction Donation Form**  
**Saturday, November 9, 2019, 5:30 – 8:30**

### DONOR INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

### SERVICE OR ITEM YOU ARE DONATING FOR AUCTION

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Description (including number of offerings and date, 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.

*\*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, 2020. It is the responsibility of the successful bidder to collect the item or service.*

### Interested in something special for the 2019 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 [auction@uuerie.org](mailto:auction@uuerie.org) or return this form to the UUCE office by Monday, October 28.**

**Get your donation forms in early to make catalog creation less stressful!**

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTING AT GANNON UNIVERSITY ON OCTOBER 24



The Office of Global Support and Engagement at Gannon University has asked for groups in the Erie Community to host their Thursday afternoon Global Coffee Hours for students and faculty. The UU Congregation of Erie is signed up as the host for Thursday, October 24, from 3:00-4:30. The coffee hour is a relaxing opportunity to meet others over refreshments reflective of the hosting organization's culture. The Office of Global Support and Engagement is the support office for Gannon's international students. Students from over 20 countries are served by this office. Approximately 40 people attend this coffee hour each week. It is held in the lobby of Beyer Hall, second floor, with elevator access.

As hosts we are asked to provide "goodies" in the form of cookies, small cakes, fruit, veggies, breads, and any other snack type foods that college students would enjoy. Homemade goods are greatly appreciated. The university will provide coffee and tea; we are invited to bring other beverages, like lemonade, cider, water.

It would be good if there are at least 10 congregants can bring or donate baked goods and/or beverages. We need people who can help setup at 2:30, attend during the coffee hour (3:00-4:30) and interact with the student and faculty guests, and a couple people to help clean up at 4:30. If you are interested to working on this project in any capacity, please contact Leigh Kostis at [lwko@roadrunner.com](mailto:lwko@roadrunner.com) or 814-838-2941 or text to 814-460-0174.



### **Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 20 at Noon.**

We will discuss the future of our annual garage sale, along with other important topics. Please plan to attend!

## BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKERS ON OCTOBER 6

**Edward Grout** is a professional artist for over 42 years and a teaching roster artist with the PCA since 1997. He studied at Parson School of Design, NYC and received his MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, graduating magna cum laude.

He works in all stages of glass work – including hot glass, fusing, kiln forming and off-hand glass techniques. “I make art as a way in which I may speak aloud to and with others about those things of a spiritual or social nature which move me,” Ed states. Among the ideas that move and inspire him most is the idea of myth — its place in modern society and the human impulse to create it: “Thinkers of many different disciplines have found that myth represents an absolute truth and affords insight into the indescribable realities of the soul. It is within the domain of art that contemporary mythology will most likely be expressed.” Reflecting this attitude, Ed’s work makes use of archetypal imagery, symbols and elemental concepts.

Ed facilitates many interactive art projects and believes in the power of the creative process as a resource for positive change in communities.

Ed is the Co-Founder of The Looking Glass Art Project.

**Thomas Ferraro** is an artist, painter, teacher and public art advocate. Tom served as the co-director of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association from 2008 through 2016 and is both a teaching artist and board trustee for Erie Arts and Culture. He has served as a roster teaching artist for the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts since 2011 and has been a member of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh since 2004.

His studio work explores figures and landscapes often blurring the lines between abstraction and representational imagery. He uses color, atmosphere, shape and text to heighten emotion and ambiguity. He seeks harmony between the personal influences of his inner self with the complexities of contemporary society.

Tom is the Co-Founder of the Looking Glass Art Project.

## BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON OCTOBER 13

Dale McBrier is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Girard where he often conducts the Sunday Worship Service. He graduated from Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Philosophy and also substantially completed a Masters of Religion at Iliff Theological Seminary, Denver, CO. His many community services include the United Way’s “Erie Together” Executive Committee, the Jefferson Educational Society’s Board of Trustees, and Erie Chamber Growth Partnership’s Executive Committee. He’s also on the Erie Blue Coats’ Support Committee and author of *Be the Guru*, a self-published book about parenting.

## BOOK CLUB



Place -

Diane Guthrie's  
(504-4020)

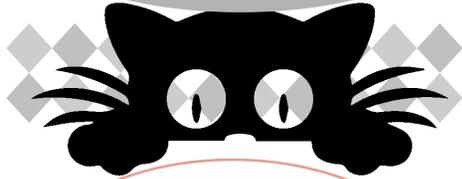
Book -

*My Brilliant Friend*  
by Elena Ferrante

Date -

October 23, 7 PM

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  
November issue is  
Saturday, October 19 .**

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.

Follow us on  
**Twitter @UUErie**



An **LGBTQ** Welcoming Congregation

Find us on  
**Facebook**

Ask us about  
**Memory Cafe**



**Welcome Circle**

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).

**October Birthdays**

13—Bob Guthrie  
15—Bryan Hed



Service Attendance:

09/01/19—A Salute to Labor—33 adults, 2 children.

09/08/19—Water Ingathering—Rev. Charlie—55 adults, 6 children.

09/15/19—Intentions and Actions—Rev Charlie—no data.

09/22/19—Good Intentions are Not Enough—David Gonzalez—54 adults, 12 children.



# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Homeschool Group 12-3 p.m.  Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m.	2 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	3 Memory Café 1-3 p.m.  Greeters Meeting 6 p.m.	4   Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m.	5 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m.  EARS Fundraiser 12-3 & 4-7 p.m.
6 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck lunch after the service. AA Women's	7 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. Erie Moot 7 p.m.  One Table Steering Committee 4 p.m.	8 Finance Committee 5:30 p.m.  Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m.	9 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	10 One Table Program on Domestic Terrorism 6:30-8:30p.m.  Board of Trustees 6 p.m.	11   Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m.	12 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m.  Highway Pickup 9 a.m.
13 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.	14 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. PFLAG 7 p.m.	15 Sunday Services Committee 6 p.m.  Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m.	16 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.  Council Meeting 6 p.m.  Erie Outing Club 7-9 p.m.	17 Memory Café 1-3 p.m.	18   Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m.	19 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m.
20 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting Noon	21 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m.	22   Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m.	23 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	24 PA Prison Society 10 a.m..	25   Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m.	26 Dulcimer Club 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  Erie Sisters 6:30 p.m.
27 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Upper Room Sack Lunches Prepared after the service  Pumpkin carving party after Upper Room lunch packing is complete.	28 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m.	29   Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m.	30 Girl Scouts 1:30-3 p.m.	31   		