



Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation of  
Erie

June 2020



# The Beacon

**Sunday Services**— In-person services are suspended until further notice. Please watch the weekend news and our website for details about our virtual services which. Want to get an email giving you the Zoom link to the service? Email [uuerie.zoom@gmail.com](mailto:uuerie.zoom@gmail.com).

## Theme for June: Relationships

**June 7** **“(W)rites” of Passage**  
Guest Speaker and Artist, Benjamin Aysan

Benjamin Aysan is the leader of Erie's Turkish Cultural Center and a calligrapher. He will share how his art connects him with his love of wisdom, words, and his Muslim faith. We will also celebrate the milestone achievements of members who are graduating high school and college. They will share a few words of wisdom of their own. Service Coordinator: Kelly Armor. Musician: Jackson Froman.

**June 14** **The God Problem: Consciousness and Connection**  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Alex Holt, Contract Minister,  
UU Church of Meadville  
(biography on page 4)

Many people, including UU's, have challenges with the concept of God. Do we simply ignore the whole idea as superstition or can we redefine the term successfully? What if evolution and consciousness lead us to a new vision of 'God'? Dixie Morrow, Service Coordinator and Jackson Froman, musician.

**June 21** **Flying with Dad**  
Guest Speaker: Yvonne Caputo (biography on page 5)

Join us for a celebration of Father's Day with author Yvonne Caputo. She states, "When I was in my late 20's, my mother told me that if I wanted to have a relationship with my father, I would have to go to him. He wasn't going to change. She told me that I would have to be the one to make the move. Some 30 years later, without knowing it, I did that very thing. The end result was that I had the father I always wanted, and he had a daughter he didn't know he had. Service Coordinators, Mary Desmone and Liz Yount Musicians: Jackson Froman and Kirk Walters .

**June 28** **Relationships in an Age of COVID**  
Guest Speaker: Al Richardson

The role of relationships in our personal lives is impacted by cultural innovations that society embraces in our lifetime -- past, present and future. Using Martin Buber's writings, among other relevant resources, Al will explore the unique challenges we now face with social distancing and isolation.

Al Richardson, a recent widower, has been a member of our UU Congregation for 45 years. In 1961, prior to moving here from Philadelphia, he joined the Unitarian Society of Delaware County (the same year Universalists joined Unitarian Congregations).

**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

### 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.*



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

**The UUCE sends congratulations and warmest wishes** to the following students who are graduating this year. You have all accomplished much, and we know there will be many more achievements in your future endeavors. Roots have held you close; wings now send you soaring!

**Logan Blount**—Logan will graduate Summa Cum Laude from Northwestern PA Collegiate Academy on June 6th. She was on the golf and bowling teams. She took many AP classes and four English classes at Gannon. She participated in many clubs, including: county and school GSA, Latin, anime, creative writing, art, SWIFT, and prom committee. She was also the President of the Teen Advisory Board of the Erie County Public Library for two years. She will attend Edinboro University in the fall and study Marketing in the School of Business Administration. She received the President's Academic Excellence award for \$1000. She hopes to go on to graduate school and become a librarian. She will skate through the summer as a Sonic Car hop. [Tammy and Jack Blount, parents]

**Jared Cedzo**—Jared is graduating from Fairview High School. He played varsity golf all 4 years, and received 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-region honors his sophomore and senior years. He is heading to Gannon University as a history major having already has one year completed through dual enrollment while still in high school. Jared is working toward becoming an accomplished bass player (thanks to Doug Russell being an awesome mentor and sparking his interest!) For two years, he has been working at Beechwood Golf Club as first a dishwasher, and now a cook. [Christine and Chris Cedzo, parents]

**Danieh Foltz**—Danieh graduated from Juniata College with a B.A. in International Politics and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She will be starting an internship with Nonviolence International in June. During her time with NVI, Danieh will be helping them archive and update their nonviolent database, participating in their webinar series, creating online creative content, and working closely with partner organizations. Danieh will be working with NVI remotely for the moment, but hopes to be working with them in D.C. soon. [Michele Paich, parent]

**Hannah Olanrewaju**—Hannah is graduating Summa Cum Laude from McDowell High School. She participated in band, FIRST Robotics, and track and field. She plans on attending Penn State, The Behrend College and has been accepted in the Schreyer Honor's Program. She has not yet decided on a major. She will be taking two classes over the summer as a part of the Summer Start program. [Lin Lang Su, parent and James Pearson, step-parent]

**Siegrid Tuttle**-- Siegrid is graduating from Fairview High School. She will graduate as an National Merit Award Honorable Mention (for her performance on the PSAT test) and as an AP Scholar with Distinction (for her performance on the College Board AP exams). She participated in Model United Nations and Speech and Debate. This summer Siegrid hopes to hike and camp with friends if the pandemic subsides. She has accepted an offer from New York University (NYU) in their Gallatin School of Individual Studies. At NYU, she plans to create a major incorporating her interests including International Law and Economic Justice. [Blair Tuttle and Marcella Smith, parents]



Hi friends and fans of the RE program! IT IS SUMMER! Things have come to an end for this year and although this summer will be different than what we are used to, I am hoping everyone will have a great few months of warm weather and no school! During the June 7<sup>th</sup> service, we will be acknowledging all those who volunteered as teachers this past year. Thank you again to everyone who helped out with the RE program – we could not have done it without you! There are some plans in the works for next year, only time will tell what changes will need to be made, but I am sure we will still need volunteers so if you are willing to help out, please let me know!

Until next time,  
Candace Williams

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 28



On June 28, we will hold our yearly congregational meeting, via Zoom, directly following that week's Sunday Service. In addition to voting on next year's budget, we will be voting on a new member for the Board of Trustees.

Melanie Hetzel-Riggin will complete her third year, so a new member will be needed. If you are interested in joining the Board or if you have any questions about it, please contact Julie Maguire, Board President, at [juliemaguire626@gmail.com](mailto:juliemaguire626@gmail.com)





## Lobby Day 2020

Hey Erie UU friends! I just registered for PennEnvironment's VIRTUAL Climate Action Lobby Day on June 16, and I want to invite you to participate too!

PennEnvironment will be coordinating video meetings with your legislators, online actions and educational sessions throughout the day, and hosting citizen advocacy trainings beforehand. It will be a powerful day of grassroots advocacy and citizen lobbying for climate action, and I hope you can join me!

~Issy Lawrie, Girard UU

[bit.ly/  
Climate-  
LobbyDay2020](https://bit.ly/Climate-LobbyDay2020)



## BIOGRAPHY OF ALEX HOLT, OUR GUEST SPEAKER ON JUNE 14

Rev. Alex Holt is the contract minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. He arrived in Meadville last summer after a cross-country move from Seattle, Washington. Alex served as interim minister at Westside UU Congregation in West Seattle for three years.

He has been an Accredited Interim Minister for 6 years with training through the UUA and the Interim Ministry Network. He has most recently been interim minister in Seattle, Fort Worth, Texas; Bend, Oregon; and Clemson, SC. Other places he has served included Woodinville, Washington (outside Seattle), Springfield, IL, Alton, IL, and Marysville, WA.

He grew up on a farm in rural Maine and attended the University of Southern Maine, Penn State and UC Berkeley in his academic work. He has an M.Div. from Star King School for the Ministry as well as an M.A. in Comparative Literature at Penn State.

His life-partner, Debra Savelle, lives in Eugene, Oregon. She is full time Buddhist chaplain at the local hospital there and has been a Zen student at Buddha Eye Temple in Eugene for 20 years. Debra's daughter and granddaughter, two cats, and two dogs all share Debra's home.

Alex is a long time Buddhist student having studied and trained with Chozen and Hogen Bays who are co-abbots of Great Vow Zen Center in Oregon. Alex now focuses on dharma work in addictions ministry. He is currently treasurer of the Buddhist Recovery Network [www.buddhistrecovery.org](http://www.buddhistrecovery.org).

## CHARTING OUR COURSE PLEDGE DRIVE

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. We are just over \$117,000 in pledges, and you can mail your form at any time, or email it to [joanne@uuerie.org](mailto:joanne@uuerie.org).

### MEET YVONNE CAPUTO, OUR GUEST SPEAKER ON JUNE 21

Yvonne Caputo has been a teacher. She taught in the Erie Public Schools for 18 years. She has also been a corporate trainer and consultant, a psychotherapist and, prior to retirement, the head of human resources in a large retirement community. She has master's degrees in education and clinical psychology. In her book, *Flying with Dad*, is a story about her building a relationship with her father through his the telling of his World War II stories.

Yvonne has always been a storyteller. She has used stories to widen the eyes of students, to broaden the understanding of employers/employees, and soften the pain of clients. It's her stories that result in rave reviews as a presenter and speaker.

Yvonne lives in Pennsylvania with her best friend Kirk (who is also her husband). Together they have three children, three grandchildren, and a labradoodle.

**Yvonne is doing The Jefferson Educational Society live Facebook interview on June 16 at 4:00 PM.**



### A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

**Although COVID may have distracted many, our Ministerial Search Committee is still in the process of identifying a new minister for the UUCE.**

A six-person search committee has convened, under the leadership of board member Mary Beth McCarthy. We are following the UUA's advice to hire a contract minister. This then gives us, and our minister, the flexibility to renew the contract, or not, at the end of each year. Following that protocol, Mary Beth posted our congregational record on the UUA's website in early April. Candidates were able to read about us and the half-time ministerial position we seek to fill. Several candidates have expressed an interest in the position. The search committee is going through their applications and hopes to set up video interviews with some of them.

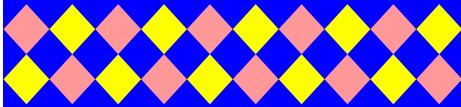
Because we are calling a contracted, not a settled, minister, the process is faster and less formal. The search committee is working within the UUA's tight deadline, but with care and diligence. We will keep you all informed as we work through this exciting process!

Sincerely,

Members of UUCE Ministerial Search Committee

Kelly Armor, Matt Jordan, Annette Krusewicz, Nanci Lorei, Mary Beth McCarthy, Blair Tuttle, and Kat Wolper





**Secretary:**

Joanne Davis  
Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8 a.m.-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](http://uuerie.org)

The Beacon is published monthly.

We welcome your suggestions  
and submissions.

**The deadline for articles for the  
July issue is**

**Saturday, June 20.**

Send submissions to:  
[Joanne@uuerie.org](mailto:Joanne@uuerie.org).

Beacon Editor/Layout: Joanne Davis

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To receive future newsletters via  
e-mail link or through the mail, please  
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[Joanne@uuerie.org](mailto: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](mailto: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  
([krispins@aol.com](mailto:krispins@aol.com)).

**June Birthdays**

06—Reid McFarlane  
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:**

- May 3—The Fungus Among Us—Kelly Armor and MaryBeth McCarthy—  
57 participants.
- May 10—Iridescence—Blair Tuttle—57 adults, 2 children.
- May 17—The Carousel of Time—Rev. Charlie—67 adults, 2 children.
- May 24—Reefer Sanity—Rev. Alex Holt—60 participants.

# June 2020



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**All Building Use  
Suspended Until  
Further Notice.**

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