



August 2021

The Beacon



Sunday Services— In-person services are suspended until further notice. Please watch the weekend news and our website for details about and links to our virtual services.

Summer Lite

August 1 Reading, Reflecting, and Responding to Racism

Guest speakers: Janice Etchison, Pamela Moore, and Linda Williams.

Service leaders: Mary Desmone and Michele Paich

The UUCE/Community book group started out in the summer of 2020 to read about and understand racism and how it is deeply woven into the fabric of our society.

Please join us to hear personal reflections about our journey towards anti-racism and our path moving forward.

August 8 Unpacking Familiar Platitudes

Guest Speaker: Professor Steve Sullivan (see bio on pg. 7)

Coordinator: Al Richardson

Two common sayings have long intrigued the speaker: “everything happens for a reason,” and “there but for the grace of God go I.” They seem widely appreciated, but Steve will share his mixed feelings about them.

August 15 Listening and Reflecting

Coordinators Michele Paich and Dixie Morrow.

We will create breakout rooms with about twelve people in each. Everyone will have an opportunity to share their feelings about a short reading. No one is obligated to speak.

Please note there will be no services on August 22 or 29

The Sunday Services Committee is taking a short break to renew and recharge.

President:

Nanci Lorei

Vice-President:

Leigh Kostis

Secretary: Beth Ann Kopay

UUCE Board Members:

Annette Krusewicz

Doug Michali

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.*



MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Greetings everybody! My family and I are getting so excited about our move. (And also, stressing out about it. Moving is just so difficult!) Plans are well underway, and before you know it, we'll be joining you in Erie!

Changes are about as we emerge from our virtual year together into a whole new adventure in ministry! As of the first of July, I began my new schedule as your three-quarters time, settled minister. What does that mean, exactly? Well, as a *settled minister* I am called by you, the congregation, to be in a unique relationship with you as your religious leader. This is an abiding relationship that will go forward not just for a year, or two years...but in an open-ended manner. I'm honored and delighted to accept your call and begin this new chapter of our ministry together.

Three-quarters time means that I am being paid and called to serve about seventy-five percent of a full-time minister's schedule. How will this work? The Unitarian Universalist Association recommends that three-quarters time ministers build one off-week into their schedule for each month of service. This allows part-time ministers to achieve an appropriate work-life balance and work no more than the number of hours they are contracted to serve.

Most weeks I'll work a full-time ministerial schedule, including two or three times in the pulpit each month, weekdays at my office, some evening meetings, occasional Saturday workshops, attendance at community events, etc. And then once a month I'll have a scheduled off-week. During this time I'll be away from congregational duties and reachable only for pastoral and congregational emergencies.

If this all sounds complicated, don't worry! I covenant with you to communicate clearly which times of the month I'll be away and to make sure there is pastoral care available to you while I'm gone.

For example, for this month, my off-week will be August 14th through the 20th. I will virtually attend the monthly Board of Trustees meeting during that time, but will not be attending other events and meetings, answering email or phone calls. If you send me an email or call me during this time, you'll receive a reply letting you know that it's my scheduled off-week, and that I'll get back to you when my time away from the congregation is over.

Remember that you can always call Joanne in the office if you have questions, or contact one of the pastoral care associates (Mary Beth McCarthy at mbp1@psu.edu and Christine Linke at chrislinke@hotmail.com) if you need to talk to someone before I get back. We are here for you!

I know that we'll have some adjustments to make after our virtual year together, and as I move from half-time to three-quarters time service. But I feel certain that we can figure this out together.

I can't wait to see you and get to know the congregation in a whole new way this year. Meanwhile, be well, be safe, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Many blessings, and I'll see you soon!
Kristina

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

It is an exciting time for our congregation. We are thinking about and planning for getting back together in person *finally* after a long time of physical separation. Our building has been newly sided. Welcoming entrance enhancements and a concert are being planned as a memorial to Doug Russell and most exciting of all, we start our new church year with our recently called, settled, $\frac{3}{4}$ time minister, Reverend Kristina Church. It feels like a lot of new beginnings and a great opportunity. In new and old ways, we will connect and reconnect, maybe on zoom, maybe in person (soon) and continue to offer a message of hope and a community of love and meaningful engagement. Please stay connected to communications sent by email (Weekend News and the Beacon) and announcements during Sunday services as we expand on the info sent to you by mail in mid-July. I feel privileged to be your board president for this next year as we all work together into the future. Please join me in giving a huge thank you to outgoing President Julie Maguire who worked tirelessly for the last two years as our board president leading us through changes and challenges with her wisdom, patience, and good humor. Thank you also to Mary Beth McCarthy and Ron Brown for their service to the congregation as board members for the past three years.

A summary of the July Board of Trustees meeting:

- After thanking leaving board members, Julie Maguire, Mary Beth McCarthy and Ron Brown, new members, Beth Kopay, Leigh Kostis and Doug Michali, were welcomed to the board.
- Elections were held for officers:
 - Nanci Lorei—President
 - Leigh Kostis—Vice President
 - Beth Kopay—Secretary
- Rev. Kristina highlighted her report:
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ time schedule will be 3 weeks on, 1 week off each month
 - Attended UUA General Assembly in June as the UUCE delegate
 - Will be moving to Erie in August
 - Encouraged consideration of joining the Pittsburgh UU Cluster
 - Committee on Shared Ministry is complete and will be meeting regularly
- Committee reports:
 - Sunday Services—letter explaining reopening plan, along with Erie Gives Day information, to be mailed
 - Building and Grounds—contract for new air conditioners awarded to Preece Heating and Cooling for \$14,400.00, which was the lowest bid
 - Election for treasurer was not completed at June congregational meeting, as per bylaws—discussion followed.
- Committee liaison assignments were chosen:
 - Building and Grounds—Blair Tuttle
 - Caring—Annette Krusewicz
 - Finance—Doug Michali
 - Hospitality—Steve Sullivan
 - Membership—Leigh Kostis
 - Religious Education—Blair Tuttle
 - Social Responsibility—Beth Kopay
 - Sunday Services—Annette Krusewicz
 - Nanci Lorei will liaise with Joanne Davis
- Discussion ideas for the next meeting:
 - Committee structure and term limits for committee chairs
 - Yearly church calendar
 - Board retreat in September or October
- Board agreed to continue to meet by Zoom monthly and in person once per quarter
- Next meeting Thursday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom



~Nanci Lorei



**MARK TUESDAY, AUGUST 10 ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

This day of support for local nonprofits will be held online for 12 hours on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

Why donate on this day?

The Erie Community Foundation and its sponsors will enhance donors' gifts by providing a prorated match to each nonprofit's donation total.

The more we give; the more we receive in matching funds in addition to our individual donations.

**THIS IS OUR ONLY SCHEDULED FUNDRAISER FOR
2021-2022!**

Donating is easy. Follow these steps.

- ⇒ Log on to www.eriegives.org between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10th.
- ⇒ Look up The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. (Under the T's)
- ⇒ Enter the amount you wish to donate, with a minimum of \$25.00.
- ⇒ Use a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card for payment.
- ⇒ Notify Joanne at (joanne@uuerie.org) or call at the office, 814-864-9300, to indicate what portion of your donation is pledge and/or gift. If you are able, please give both toward your pledge and an additional gift.

If you do not have a credit card, you may pay by check prior to August 10th. If you need a copy of the donation form, we can print one for you to mail.

- ⇒ Checks must be made out to The Erie Community Foundation.
- ⇒ All check donations must be accompanied by a [Check Donation Form](#).
- ⇒ Checks must be delivered to The Erie Community Foundation (459 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507) no later than Monday, August 9, 2020.

If you do not have online access, contact Joanne for additional information and instructions. She will assist you with your donation.

The UUCE will receive the donations through the Erie Community Foundation in September. Your gift will be put to work immediately.

We will continue the work of our congregation with both UUCE work and community service projects.

GREETERS NEEDED

As we begin our reopening plan for Sunday services, we need greeters for both in-person and virtual services.

No experience is necessary. If you have a friendly smile, like meeting new people, and enjoy welcoming folks to our amazing congregation, you qualify!

New greeters will be paired with an experienced greeter.

If you are interested, please contact Leigh Kostis at [Lwko @roadrunner.com](mailto:Lwko@roadrunner.com) or 814-838-2941.





BIOGRAPHY OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER ON AUGUST 8

Steve Sullivan is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Edinboro University since 2004, with specialties in ethics and philosophy of religion. He was born and raised in the New York City metropolitan area. Steve has been a member of UUCE for about ten years and currently is on its Board of Trustees. He calls himself a Tolkien geek and aspiring amateur standup comic.

WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

Until we resume face-to-face services, we will continue to make only monetary donations to the Food Pantry. You have been very generous in the past few months, and one congregant was **EXTREMELY** generous (thank you so much to whomever you are). Dropping off food now should be discouraged because those who work at the pantry (all senior citizens) are trying very hard to be Covid-safe for their own health. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to "UUCE" and write "Millcreek Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Mail donations to: UUCE P.O. Box 3495 Erie, PA 16508

These gifts allow the Pantry to purchase additional food from NWPA Second Harvest Food Bank, and every dollar buys more food than you could purchase from the grocery store. Their website states that \$25 can buy 125 meals. How awesome is that?!

Once we are able to have services at the church again, we will resume collecting food.

Thanks to all who donate! ~Deb DiPlacido

Reverend Kristina Church
kristinachurch@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Joanne Davis
Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fridays 9 a.m.—1:30 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
September issue is
Saturday, August 21 .**

Send submissions to:
Joanne@uuerie.org.

Beacon Editor/Layout: Joanne Davis

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.

"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).

August Birthdays

- 01 – Leigh Kostis
- 10 – Peggy Puleo
- 18 – Michele Paich
- 22 – Howard Krack
- 22 – Betty Young



Service Attendance:

**July 4—Independence Day, Our Way—Regis Sabol and the UUCE All Star
Band—38 participants.**

July 11—Funding Our Public Schools—Susan Spicka—34 participants.

**July 18—Listening and Reflecting—Dixie Morrow and Michele Paich—31
participants.**

July 25—The Day out of Time—Michele Paich—37 participants.

August 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Zoom service, gather at 10 a.m., service at 10:30 1	2 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE	3	4	Memory Café 1-3 p.m. 5	Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE 6	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE 7
Sunday Zoom service, gather at 10 a.m., service at 10:30 8	9 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE	10	11	12	Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE 13	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE 14
Sunday Zoom service, gather at 10 a.m., service at 10:30 15	16 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE	17	18	Memory Café 1-3 p.m. 19	Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE 20	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE 21
No Sunday Service 22	23 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE	24	25	Board of Trustees 6 p.m. via Zoom 26 Social Responsibility Zoom meeting 6:30 P.M.	Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE 27	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE 28
No Sunday Service 29	30 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE	31				