

August 2022



The Beacon



Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation of
Erie

Sunday Services—Begin at 10:30 and last approximately 60-75 minutes. **Summer Lite services continue until September 4 and are available in person only or online only.**

August 7 Quilting Presentation

Speaker: Linda Graff (see bio on page 4)

Linda, along with a few members from her quilt guild, will discuss the process of making a quilt: piecing, making the layers and quilting the layers together. They will show many examples of wall hangings and quilts. Some of these quilts will show the same pattern made with different fabrics and some will illustrate using the same fabric to make different quilts. Linda will also discuss the guild's very active Community Service projects that support several nonprofits in Erie. This service is in person only.

August 14 All About the Night Sky

Speaker: Jackson Froman

Jackson is a musician and amateur astronomer. He performs with *House of Rhythm* and specializes in early jazz and ragtime. Astronomy has always been a passion of his. He began imaging stars a year ago, and encourages others to follow their passion. Interested amateur astronomers can follow his steps to achieve imaging/viewing success at a beginner level. This service is in person only.

August 21 Financial Economics and Kindness

Speaker: Bob Cullen (see bio on page 4)

Income inequality is a critical problem in the U.S. and it's worsening. How did we get here and what is the remedy? We view this current economic reality in light of our U.U. guiding principles, including the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations. This service is in person only.

August 28 Two Sunday Service Opportunities:

Journey to Chautauqua or Virtual Service

We will travel to the Chautauqua Institution for the UU service in the Hall of Philosophy. The speaker will be our own Rev. Kristina Church! If you wish to carpool, we will leave from the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The Chautauqua service begins at 9:30 a.m. After the service, we can spend time wandering around the grounds, having lunch, and visiting the Unitarian Universalist House. Parking in the Chautauqua lot is free until 2 p.m. Alternatively, there will be a virtual service with a Pittsburgh Cluster congregation. Details for the virtual service will be sent closer to the date.

UUCE Board Members:

President:

Nanci Lorei

Vice-President:

Leigh Kostis

Secretary: Beth Ann Kopay

Linda Graff

Annette Krusewicz

Greg Blackman

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

I hope your summer is going well. It's been a while since I've seen you all, but you've been on my mind while my son, Rafael, and I were traveling the country! It's good to be home.

I return with all sorts of updates from the wider UU world. First, General Assembly (GA), our big yearly Unitarian Universalist national gathering was held this year from June 22nd-26th in Portland, Oregon.

It would be impossible for me to tell you about everything that happens at GA. It's a swirl of workshops, worship services, receptions and social justice actions. But at the heart of it, GA is where congregational delegates show up to do the work of deciding, via democratic process, how we will move into the future as a faith.

This is essential work, and it takes tremendous staff and volunteer effort and energy to coordinate the whole process. I'm also grateful to our own Nanci Lorei and Steve Sullivan for being willing to serve as our delegates this year, participating virtually. So, what did we vote on? Among other things, we cast votes for new members of the UUA Board of Trustees and reinstated sitting members. We voted on which justice issues we want to focus on as a national movement. [Here's a UU World article](#) with a brief summary of the business that was conducted in Portland.

We also participated in some important conversations during presentations by the Article II Study Commission, who are charged with the regularly scheduled process of reviewing our Principles & Purposes, Inclusion & Freedom of Belief statements (together, known as Article II of the UUA bylaws). This process is designed to take place every fifteen years or so in our Living Tradition. Remember that the commission will make recommendations at GA 2023, next summer in Pittsburgh. We'll vote to consider those changes, or amend them, and then have a year for further consideration. At GA 2024, we'll vote on whether or not to adopt them as an Association.

I know that many of you are vitally interested in this process, so I'm including links to the videos of the presentations by the Article II Commission here. I hope you'll take the time to watch them:

[Video One](#): The excellent theological/historical framing by Dan McKanan of Harvard University begins at the 20:40 mark. Article II presentations on Purposes & Freedom of Belief begin at about the 32:30 mark and last about an hour.

[Video Two](#): Article II presentations on Shared Values and Sources begin at about the 24:00 mark and last about an hour.

[Video Three](#): Article II presentations on the Inclusion Clause and Inspirations begin at the 33:00 mark and last about an hour.

In our next Beacon, I'll tell you some more about the Central East Region Summer Institute, otherwise known as SI or CERSI, which was the second part of our long trip! But for now, I'll sign off because I'm all out of space!

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

Blessings,

Rev. Kristina



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Summer Institute was a few weeks ago. Pat and I have gone each year for almost 30 years and we have missed it these last 2 years of the pandemic. We were glad to be back among about 300 fellow UUs at our new location on the campus of Penn West California, which is south of Pittsburgh. I like this campus with really nice housing and lots of gathering spaces.

It was a wonder week of intellectual stimulation, music, worship and connections mixed with lots of fun. I hope to bring more information to the congregation in the coming year with the hope of encouraging more of us to go in 2023.



Your Board of Trustees voted to retain the current slate of officers. Beth Kopay as Secretary, Leigh Kostis as Vice President and Nanci Lorei as President. You will be hearing more about the goals and focus of your board of trustees and as always, you are invited to offer feedback, questions or comments to any board member.

~Nanci Lorei

AV UPDATE to Improve Zoom and In-Person Worship

Our audio visual committee is looking to upgrade our gear! Our plan is to replace the two cameras (one for musicians and one for the pulpit) with a wall mounted, remotely operated camera that can handle several different camera angles and shots. This will eliminate the cables and tripods currently in the sanctuary and give us more control and flexibility when we restart our blended services in September.

The equipment, plus installation, will cost \$5000. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation to make this happen contact Nanci Lorei at Nanci.lorei@marshamarsh.com.



I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer we are having. With August upon us, we are getting into my favorite time of year, late summer and early fall. With fall comes back to school, of course, and this year, back to the children's religious education classes. This year looks different from previous years since our classrooms have been quiet on Sunday mornings for more than two years now. The Religious Education Committee consists of Michael Long, Ginny Sabol, and me, and we are dedicated to bringing back a vibrant program.

Beginning this month there will be a push for teaching volunteers and paid nursery workers. Please consider doing either or both. Keeping in mind that we are still in the midst of an ongoing pandemic, there is no way to predict what the upcoming year will look like, but I'm confident we will build from the solid foundation that is already in place here in our beloved community. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Be well.

~Michele Paich, Director of Religious Education, 814-460-4138, micpaich@hotmail.com.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"
- Nelson Mandela

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON AUGUST 7

Linda Graff joined UUCE in Nov 2020. She is a member of the Social Justice Committee, Hospitality Committee and is on the UUCE Board.

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON AUGUST 21

Bob Cullen is a recently retired Professor of Financial Economics and Director of Finance Programs at Mercyhurst University. He has served on several nonprofit boards and currently is on the Board of the Erie International Institute working with refugees. Bob signed the UUCE membership book 20 years ago.



*Save
the
Date*

**MARK TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

This day of support for local nonprofits will be held online for 12 hours on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

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.

Please donate on this special day!

*See details for giving in the Thursday Weekend News
as well as forthcoming emails.*

Board meeting held on July 20, 2022

- Rev. Kristina highlighted her report:
 - Attended ministry days and GA in Portland, OR
 - Attended CER Summer Institute
 - Working with Board President & new DRE on duties and responsibilities & contract
 - 8th principle review and *Widening the Circle of Concern*—will work with board and then branch out into congregation
 - Need a new banner made
- Building and Grounds—no report
- Membership—no report
- Caring Committee—lunches for Upper Room to begin in September on first Sunday; July dinner for homeless
- Religious Education—Michele Paich taking online classes and beginning prep for return to Children's RE; 3 opportunities this summer for reconnection with children
- Committee on Shared Ministry—need another member
- Social Justice— guest speaker in September for UUthe VotePA with Rev. Joan
- Finance— Diane Guthrie, Treasurer, gave report. PayPal balance of \$10,000 deposited into checking & will now be deposited monthly. Additional gift of \$10,000 will be deposited into current year's budget. Focus on roles and responsibilities of Finance Committee.
- Communications—no report
- Old Business
 - Keys/Security
 - Ready to proceed; differentiated security codes will identify each person who enters
 - Mueller will rekey in next couple of weeks
 - Piano needs long term care; will need its own fundraiser
 - Policies and procedures
 - Linda Graff volunteered to spearhead
 - Write down procedures & policies& committee descriptions
 - Linda is working on organization of Google Docs Board page
- New Business
 - Board Elections
 - President—Nanci Lorei
 - Vice President—Leigh Kostis
 - Secretary—Beth Kopay
 - Liaison Assignments
 - Building and Grounds—Leigh Kostis
 - Caring—Annette Krusewicz
 - Communications—Nanci Lorei
 - Finance—Nanci Lorei
 - Hospitality—Linda Graff
 - Membership—Leigh Kostis

- Memorial Garden—Greg Blackman/Annette Krusewicz
- Religious Education—Beth Kopay
- Shared Ministry—Linda Graff
- Social Justice—Beth Kopay
- Sunday Services—Annette Krusewicz
- Erie Gives Day
 - Encourage members to donate and/or play pledges
 - Plan in place for Erie Gives Day
- Board opening
 - Doug Michali has resigned
 - Leigh will collect names for replacement
 - Board will appoint for the last year remaining on Doug's term
- Next meeting Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. with time for training

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHAUTAUQUA SUNDAY SERVICES - 2022

At the Chautauqua Institution, Sunday Worship Services are held at 9:30 a.m. in the Hall of Philosophy during the summer.

- August 7 - Rev. Amy Carol Webb, Minister, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Davie, FL
- August 14 - Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Minister, First Religious Society Unitarian Universalist, Newburyport, MA
- August 21 - Rev. Michael McGee, Retired UU Minister, now residing in Sarasota, FL
- August 28 - Rev. Kristina Church, Minister, UU Congregation of Erie, PA

Story Circles

WITH
ONE
TABLE

provide a way for people from different backgrounds to come together to **learn from each other** and to explore cultural similarities and differences.

Based on UNESCO Model

is a tool for not only enhancing intercultural competencies development but also in *deepening relationships* with others and in emphasizing the interconnectedness of all.

Sept
18th
4p-6p at the
Cathedral
of St. Paul

Community development (One Table) – diverse community citizens (of different ages, gender, religions, socio-economic backgrounds, etc.) come together to share their stories so as to create bonds and build relationships across generations, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds.



Join us for structured story sharing for listening and learning from one another's cultures and lives.

Register today by scanning the QR Code provided.

Cathedral of St. Paul | 134 W 7th St Erie, Pa 16501 | www.cathedralofstpaul.org

Annual ONE TABLE PICNIC

August 4, 2022 (Thursday)

4 PM—8:30 PM

Meal at 6 PM

Please bring a dish to share
(no pork) and a chair.



Runner's Pavilion, Presque Isle
State Park (see map below)



Questions? Call Gary Larson at
716-307-5815 or email at
gslarson1@gmail.com.

All are welcome.

Please share this invitation
with others!

See you there!



Find us on
Facebook

"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).

Reverend Kristina Church
kristinachurch@hotmail.com

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.

Secretary:

Joanne Davis
Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday
8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Fridays 8a.m.–12:30 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

August Birthdays

- 01—Leigh Kostis
- 05—Peggy Puleo
- 18—Michele Paich
- 22—Howard Krack
- 22—Betty Young



The Beacon is published monthly.

We welcome your suggestions and submissions.

The deadline for articles for the September issue is Monday, August 15

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.

Service Attendance:

- June 26—Service from General Assembly on Zoom only—no attendance data available.
- July 3—Independence Day, Our Way—Regis Sabol and Pat Lorei—31 attendees (in-person only).
- July 10—How our Congregation's History Unites Us—Theresa Gamble—47 attendees (in-person only).
- July 17—Listening and Reflecting—Kat and Clyde Wolper, Dixie Morrow—18 attendees (in-person only).

AUGUST 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. on Zoom	2 Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE	3	4	5 Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	6 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE
7 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. in person only	8 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE Music Together 5:30-6:30 p.m.	9  Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE	10	11 Memory Café 1-3 p.m. at UUCE Music Together 9:30 -11:30 a.m.	12 Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	13 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE
14 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. in person only	15 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE Music Together 5:30 -6:30 p.m. Newsletter Deadline	16 Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE	17 Board Meeting 6 p.m. on Zoom	18 Music Together 9:30-11:30 a.m.	19 Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	20 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE
21 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. in person only	22 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE Music Together 5:30 -6:30 p.m.	23 Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE	24	25 Memory Café 1-3 p.m. at UUCE Music Together 9:30-11:30 a.m.	26 Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	27 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE
28 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. virtual or travel to Chautauqua	29 Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE Music Together 5:30-6:30 p.m.	30 Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE	31			