

June 2023



The Beacon



Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation of
Erie

Sunday Services—Begin at 10:30 and last approximately 60-75 minutes and are available both in person and via Zoom. Please see our website for the Zoom link.

June theme: Delight

June 4 Unity Through Rhythm

Join Steve Bell (biography on page 6), a master drummer and facilitator for an interactive service. He will lead us in simple drum circle techniques and guide us to create a rhythm community – sharing the common bond of the intrinsic rhythm in each of us. Sometimes individuals shy away from engaging in any type of drumming activities, holding to the axiom: “I don’t have any rhythm”. Steve will show even the most skeptical that all of us can participate and experience the satisfaction and joy of making music together. Experience how drumming together reinforces our interdependence and leave feeling uplifted! This will be an inter generational service. All ages are welcome!

June 11 Adventures in Reciprocity (a.k.a. Covenant)

Speaker: Rev. Kristina Church

If our faith isn't based on shared beliefs, what's the “glue” that holds us together? How can we maintain faithful relations with each other, with humanity, & with the many living beings who share our planet?

June 18 Flower 100

Speaker: Rev. Kristina Church

Our traditional Flower Communion service is a century old this year, but its themes of acceptance, unity, and creativity are still fresh as a daisy. Join us for this special intergenerational service honoring Norbert and Maja Capek, the Czech Unitarians who created the ritual of the flowers still practiced in our congregations today. Bring a flower, take a flower home. (But if you forget, come anyway! We'll have plenty!)

Wednesday, June 21 Summer Solstice Celebration

Join us at 10 a.m. for an informal service celebrating the beginning of summer followed by a potluck brunch.

June 25 GA Sunday Morning Worship

(virtual; streamed from our sanctuary; starts at 11am)

Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. This powerful, communal worship experience will stream on Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 11:00 am ET. The Office of the UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, is pleased to announce that the Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister of the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI will lead the 2023 Sunday Service at GA.

UUCE Board Members:

President:

Nanci Lorei

Vice-President:

Leigh Kostis

Secretary: Linda Graff

Greg Blackman

Matt Jordan

Annette Krusewicz

Kat Wolper

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, UU Erie members and friends!

It's June, the final month of the "regular" congregational year. Whew, we made it to the sunshine!

We'll take this month of June to explore the path of Delight, our final monthly liturgical theme for the 2022-23 year. It's a fun one, and we hope you can join us!

In addition to the wonderful services we have planned for this month, we'll be offering a final chance to engage with the proposed changes to the Article II section of the UUA bylaws, before they'll be voted on at our General Assembly in Pittsburgh at the end of the month! We hope you'll join us for the workshop; stay tuned for more information about time and date.

What's next? Well, some of us will be heading to General Assembly, or Summer Institute, or some other summer gathering. Some of us will head out to visit loved ones. And some of us will stay right here to enjoy the beauty of Lake Erie, Asbury Woods, and other special local spots we love.

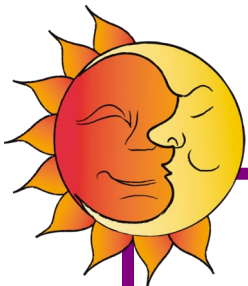
Whatever your plans for the summer, I hope you'll take the time to slow down and notice the sheer delight of living during this season. And wherever you go, I hope you'll remember to grab a small container of water for our Water Ceremony and Ingathering service in September, when we'll begin another year of living, growing, and learning together as covenantal community.

Blessings and good wishes for a lovely season in the sun!

Rev. Kristina

Reverend Kristina's Upcoming Schedule:

Unpaid Leave: June 25-July 2



SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Please join us on Wednesday, June 21 from 10 a.m. until Noon for an informal Summer Solstice Celebration and potluck brunch.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Thank you Rev. Kristina for a year of thought provoking and inspirational services. It was such a joy to participate in the long delayed but wonderful Installation ceremony on May 6th. It was worth the wait. Thank you to all that participated in the planning and execution of the day's events. The wonderful music, the setup, all the food, the always appreciated clean-up crew. It was a joyous day.

Thank you to Michele Paich for getting the Childrens Religious Education re-launched after the pandemic hiatus. It was wonderful to see kids in the classroom and I will look forward to the growth that is sure to happen in the coming years. Thank you to the teachers and committee who help make it all happen.

Thank you to Joanne Davis for the continuing dedication to our congregation as church administrator. All of the big and small jobs that are done behind the scenes that keep us going. *The Beacon*. The Weekend News email and the million other things that you do are all appreciated.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees whose insight, judgement and commitment to UUCE are invaluable.

Thank you to the committee leaders and members who carry out the work of the UUCE. Mouths are fed, numbers are crunched, members & guests are welcomed, building is tended, coffee and snacks are made (and cleaned up), social justice issues are worked on, the garden is raked, weeded and planted, services are planned and executed in person and virtually, and so much more.

Thank you to our wonderful musicians. Jackson Froman is at the piano to amaze us on many Sundays and we are so lucky to have many other willing and wonderfully talented musicians who bring extra meaning to our services.

Thank you to all who pick up highway trash and tend the planting beds. Thank you to all who build things, sew things, fix things and do all the other things that are needed. Thank you to all of you who say yes when asked. Thank you to all of you who volunteer without even being asked. Without the efforts of each, it would never be possible to have our vibrant, relevant, and wonderful community and carry out our mission to INPSIRE personal and spiritual growth, CONNECT in fellowship and service and ACT for peace and justice.

It is wonderful to see the energy in our congregation going strong. As the church year winds down, some projects are getting finished and plans are underway for the new "year" that starts in July. The final Congregational meeting for the 22/23 year is scheduled for June 18th. It will be an important meeting. Please plan to attend.

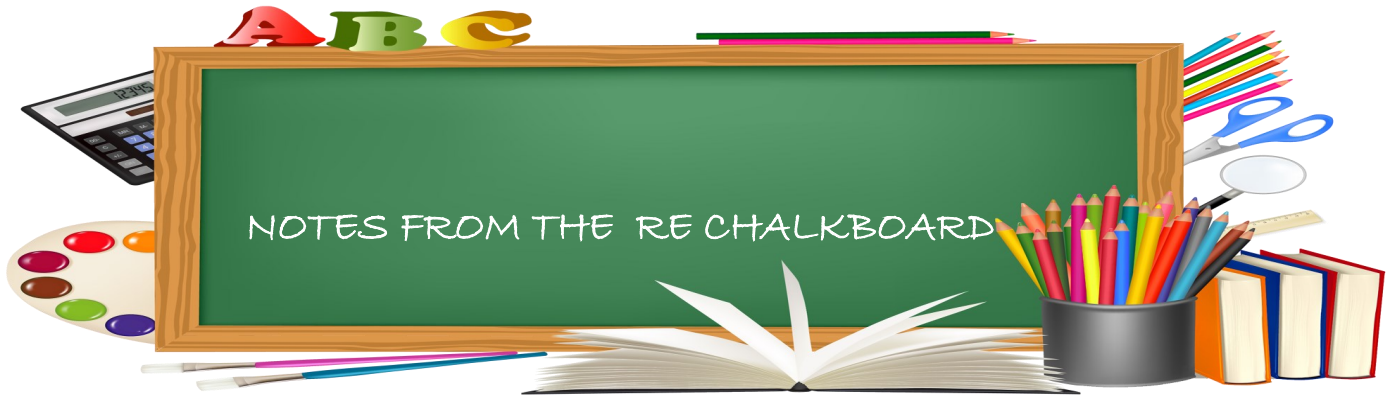
See you there!

~Nanci Lorei



BIOGRAPHY OF OUR GUEST SPEAKER JUNE 4

Stephen Bell is a retired educator with 32 years experience, the final 21 years as middle school principal in western New York. Music has been an integral part of his life since beginning drum lessons in elementary school. Forty-nine years ago, he was introduced to hand drumming and the mesmerizing pulses of African rhythms. The enjoyment Steve received in working with staff and students and his lifelong involvement with percussion led naturally to facilitating drum circles - a perfect melding of two passions. He is a member of the International Drum Circle Facilitators' Guild and has years of experience in facilitating drum circles for wellness and full participatory enjoyment for all kinds of people.



*If you are a dreamer, come in.
If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar,
a hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer ...
if you're a pretender, come sit by my fire
for we have some flax-golden tales to spin.
Come in!
Come in!*

It is June!!! Wow!

Only one class left for the 2022 - 2023 year and we are wrapping up what turned out to be an inspiring year in the classroom.

The religious education committee and myself are dedicated to making the upcoming year equally as vibrant and working to grow the program.

Please consider getting your clearances to be in the classroom or the nursery, which will be open in the fall following our water communion.

Whether you want to sign up to be a teacher volunteer, work in the nursery, or want to register your child (ren) to be in the classroom ... there will be a table set up in the Olympia Brown room on the last Sunday of the month in June, July, and August.

This will also be a time to get assistance with getting your clearances.

The dates for this are June 25th, July 30th, and August 27th following the service.

Of course you can always reach out to me if you have questions or concerns about the program.

Remember, the classroom is a place where all of us learn.

Be well and much love ~

Michele Paich - Director of Religious Education

INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM CLASS

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE

Saturday, June 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Originally scheduled for May, this class will now be held on June 10.
All are welcome to attend!**

Whether you have been attending the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie for a short time, sometimes, or regularly, there must be so much more you would like to know about our denomination and this congregation. You are welcome to join us for the *Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* class to learn, ask questions, and share in fellowship with new friends. More recent members and UU transplants who have not yet participated in the class are encouraged to attend. It is a fun, informal, and informative day. There is no obligation to join the UUCE by attending this event, but for those aged 16 and over who are so led, you will have the opportunity to do so. Childcare is available if requested in advance, and breakfast refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact Leigh at 838-2914 or Lwko@roadrunner.com, or register with Joanne at joanne@uuerie.org or 814-864-9300. We ask that you register no later than Monday, June 5, so that we may plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there!

JUNE'S SPECIAL COLLECTION:

INNER-CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ART HOUSE

The Inner-City Neighborhood Art House provides a safe, nourishing and caring environment for youth after school and during the summer. Youth ages 7-18, who live in Erie's inner city, are invited to attend the Neighborhood Art House at no cost for instruction in the visual, performing and literary arts, and in environmental action. <https://www.neighborhoodarthouse.org>





You're Invited To...

The 2023 Race Unity Picnic

Sunday, June 11th

Presque Isle State Park Shelter No. "1"

(by the Waterworks Reservoir)

From: 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Smith's hot dogs will be on the grill and food on the table at 3:00. Bring your favorite beverage and a dish to share.

Everyone's invited for great food & fun.
Mark your calendar and plan for a fun day, rain or shine!

Looking forward to seeing everyone

Sponsored by: Erie Area Baha'is, Race Unity Dialogue Group, and
the Amerimasala Festival Committee.

Call 814-397-6198 or 814-454-1820 for additional information

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/presqueisle.aspx

PRIDE PARADE 2023



Hello everyone! This is Beth and Roberta reminding you about the Pride Parade. There has been a slight change of where the starting point is. **IT IS NOT AT THE ZONE.** Instead the parade will launch from 11th street and State Street at noon on June 24th. We'll also have an information table at Perry Square at the end of the parade.

We hope to see you there! If you are interested, please email Beth (Beth.kopay@gmail.com) or Roberta (remccall611@gmail.com).

Thank you!

The Following Committee is Hosting Potluck in June

June 11—Religious Education—Director, Michele Paich

THE CORN ROAST IS BACK!

Saturday, August 26th at Beach 11.

The pavilion is reserved for the entire day.

Potluck picnic will begin at 5:00

More details to follow.

~Howard and Jan Krack



Board Meeting held on May 18, 2023

- Minister's Report
 - ◇ Wonderful installation service, including the General Assembly chalice
 - ◇ Worked on Safer Congregations policy.
 - ◇ Hired as the Youth Chaplain for Summer Institute
 - ◇ Right Relationship team has completed training
 - ◇ Looking for ways to support LGBTQ+ people, esp. trans and non-binary folks in Erie
 - ◇ Hope to train one more person for OWL to offer in fall
- Building and Grounds
- Caring Committee
 - ◇ Lunches prepared for Upper Room; great concern that we don't have volunteers to serve the lunches
 - ◇ Need volunteers for July and August to do all the lunches work or we won't be able to continue this service.
- Committee on Shared Ministry
 - ◇ Committee will hold debriefing meeting for the recent installation
 - ◇ Right Relations team training completed with Melanie Hetzel-Riggin, Mike Balsan and Tabitha Wolf.
 - ◇ Discussing future Adult Education offerings.
- Communications
- Finance
 - ◇ Beginning draft of 2023-24 budget
- Hospitality
 - ◇ Coffee hours not happening when there are no volunteers; continuing problem to get volunteers.
 - ◇ Looking for a volunteer to coordinate signups for coffee hour for next congregational year. Potlucks will be hosted by committees again.
- Membership Committee
 - ◇ *Introduction to UU Class* was moved to June 10. Additional people have been sent invitations. Announcements are in the Beacon and Weekend News.
 - ◇ New people have begun greeting on Sundays.
- Memorial Garden Commission
- Religious Education
 - ◇ Birthday Jar in June for Jun/Jul birthdays; in September for Aug/Sept birthdays
 - ◇ Children chose the Hagen History Center as the May birthday jar collection and enough money was collected to "buy a brick".
 - ◇ Two retreats are planned for the summer.
 - ◇ 28 letters were sent to families as a reminder for the May 20th sign up and get your clearances day.
- Social Justice Committee
 - ◇ Special collections for April-June decided
 - ◇ Climate change forum to be held in September
 - ◇ Erie Cash Bail Project needs someone to take it on; there is money already collected.
 - ◇ *Hate Has No Home Here* signs have been purchased and sold to congregants as a fund raiser.
 - ◇ PA Fair Wage petition during coffee hour
 - ◇ PrideFest (UUCE involvement) on June 24 will be led by Beth Kopay and Roberta McCall.
 - ◇ Golden Rule Project from Veterans for Peace is being considered. They will have their peace ship in Erie in late August/early September.
 - ◇ Several reports from the UUJustice PA committees were given.
- Sunday Services Planning Committee
 - ◇ Working on summer lite services.
 - ◇ Denny Fiscus joined the committee.
 - ◇ Number of people on Zoom will be announced during Joys and Concerns



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
minister@uuerie.org

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.

Administrator:

Joanne Davis
joanne@uuerie.org
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

June Birthdays

11—Roberta McCall

26—Deb Cable

13—Diane Guthrie

13—Ella Riggin

15—Audrey Steinbrink

22—Cathay Kramer

23—Jan Woods



The Beacon is published monthly.

We welcome your suggestions
and submissions.

**The deadline for articles for the
July issue is
Thursday, June 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:

May 7—Rev. Kristina—Bright & Shining Beltaine—39 in the sanctuary—14 on Zoom.

May 14—Rev. Kristina—37 in the sanctuary—8 on Zoom.

May 21—Josh Fleitman—Gun Violence Prevention: A Moral Imperative—
42 in the sanctuary—10 on Zoom.

May 28—service leader Tabitha Wolf—First Encounters & Lasting UUCE Memories—
32 in the sanctuary—9 on Zoom.

June 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Memory Café 1-3 p.m.	Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. on Zoom and in person Upper Room Lunch Preparation.	Music Together 10-11 a.m. & 3:30-4:30 p.m. Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE	 Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE			Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE Introduction to Unitarian Universalism Class 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Zoom and in person Potluck lunch after the service Committee Council Meeting Noon.	Music Together 10-11 a.m. & 3:30-4:30 p.m. Buddhist Sangha	Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE	 Board Meeting 6 p.m. via Zoom	Memory Café 1-3 p.m.	Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Zoom and in person Congregational Meeting at Noon	 Music Together 10-11 a.m. & 3:30-4:30 p.m. Buddhist Sangha 7 p.m. at UUCE	Erie Philharmonic Chorus 6-9 p.m. at UUCE	Summer Solstice Celebration 10-Noon Social Justice Committee 5:15-6:30 pm	Newsletter Deadline	Wedding 1-5 p.m. Erie Atheist and Agnostic Community 7 p.m. at UUCE	Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 a.m. at UUCE 
25	26	27	28	29	30	
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