



# The Beacon

February 2026

**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.

February Theme: Embodying Resilience

## February 1 How the Sunday Service Sausage is Made

Led by Pat Lorei, Dixie Morrow, Denny Fiscus, and Kelly Armor  
The Sunday Services Planning Committee has been digging into what worship means. We strive to bring a mix of solace, celebration, stability, experimentation and variety each week. Join us in a lively exploration of how we assemble a meaningful Sunday service. Pancake Breakfast 9-10 AM.

## February 8 The Many Faces of Humor

Speakers: Dan Tingley, Bruce Getsinger, Steve Sullivan  
Humor often helps us get through hard times or difficult situations; it can lighten the mood or raise hackles. Dan, Steve, and Bruce will talk about their experiences with humor and its usefulness.

## February 15 The Resisters and Peacemakers in Unitarian Universalism

Speaker: Rev. Jo Green  
With the turmoil we are experiencing in the world these days, how did our ancestors forge through turbulent times? This Sunday let us explore our martyrs and predecessors who engaged in peacemaking skills to further the principles we hold in our faith.

## February 22 Hold On!

Speaker: Rev. Chuck Cammarata  
The sermon for this Sunday is titled "Hold On!!" The truth is that I had sent this in to you 5 weeks ago, and in the world we live in today, 5 weeks is like 5 decades, so who knows what we will be facing on February 22! We will, however, endeavor to offer something useful.

UUerie Board of Trustees:

Kelly Armor, President

Dixie Morrow,

Vice President

Michael Long, Secretary

Chris Brown, Trustee

Andrew Greene, Trustee

Beth Kopay, Trustee

Marcella Smith, Trustee

Diane Guthrie, Treasurer

### 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.*

## BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR SPEAKERS ON FEBRUARY 8

Dan Tingley, the proud father of four grown children, is a semi-retired magician and comic who has performed with George Carlin. He is currently enjoying life with his wife and his hot tub. Bruce Getsinger is a semi-retired attorney; full time husband, father, grandfather; enthusiastic hiker, kayaker, and cross-country skier. He joined UUerie in 2008. Steve Sullivan joined this congregation in 2012. He earned a Ph.D from Cornell University in philosophy in 1990, and went on to make a career of it over the next three decades.

## BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON FEBRUARY 15

Reverend Jo Green rejoins us this morning. She is an MDiv graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, a community minister and chaplain, retired. Rev. Jo serves as the At Large Board Member for the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP).

## BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON FEBRUARY 22

Chuck Cammarata, former pastor at Fairview Presbyterian (retired after 33 years at a very young age!!) rejoins us today. In the summer Chuck putters around the garden and cruises around town on his Honda Nighthawk. He dabbles in a few community projects, produces a podcast, makes lamps, clocks, and other stuff from driftwood, schmoozes almost daily at local coffee shops (especially Brew Ha Ha in the Colony Plaza because his son owns it! And it is the best!!!),. Chuck thinks a lot about how to be a bold and courageous good troublemaker in a confusing and increasingly crazy world.

## THE SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

French Creek Valley Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the exceptional water quality, natural habitat, biological diversity and recreational opportunities of the French Creek Watershed in Northwest Pennsylvania. French Creek is nationally recognized as one of the most biologically important waterways in the entire country and is truly a community treasure, worthy of our attention, conservation and preservation. Please donate generously. Use the small brown envelopes in the collection basket to make a donation. Thank you. <https://www.frenchcreekconservancy.org/>

## GREETINGS, PANCAKE LOVERS

Please spread the word. The Annual Pancake Breakfast which was scheduled for Sunday, January 25th, has been postponed until Sunday, February 1st. Your reservation will hold and we'll have plenty of fresh pancakes to go around.

Questions? Call or text Janet at 814 440-1589.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT NOON

All voting members should try to attend the meeting on February 15, either in person or virtually. There will be updates on a number of issues, as well as some votes taken. See the upcoming *UUerie Flame* for more information. Everyone is welcome to attend, however, only voting members are eligible to vote.

## Voices of **RESISTANCE** *Revival*

A fundraiser benefitting USCRI



**February 5, 6-8 PM**  
1020 Collective  
1020 Holland St. Erie, PA

**Musical Line Up Featuring:**

Matt Broke Boland and Midnight Jack

Trajectory Jane (Liv)

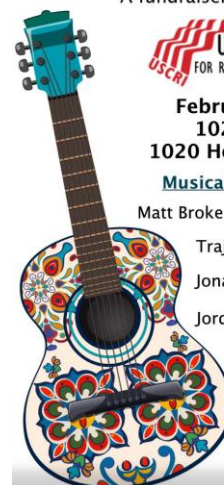
Jonathan Keeneth/Ryan Sands

Jordan Bubin Erie Slam Poetry

Chris and Kevin

**DONATIONS WELCOME**

Cash Bar. No outside drinks!



## Welcome to Embodying Resilience

*Theme Discussion for Sunday, February 22, 2026 Noon--1:00 P.M.*

*Note change of date to the fourth Sunday*

Again this year we are using the materials from *Soul Matters* for an Adult Education theme discussion on the third Sunday of the month, following the Sunday service and a brief coffee hour. The facilitator for the month will present a story, reading, or other introductory thought starter, followed by an opportunity for each participant to react. After everyone who wishes to speak has their chance, the discussion will open up for general participation.

Our goal with these discussions is to get to know each other better and challenge our thinking with each one of the themes. How can we better understand how our UU principles and values help us live in the world? What are those themes that speak directly to each of us? What makes a particular theme difficult for us to carry out? What would we like to concentrate on for personal improvement? What is important for our own spiritual journey?

Our circle will last for approximately one hour. No signups or preparation is required and all are welcome! See Leigh Kostis ([Lwko@roadrunner.com](mailto:Lwko@roadrunner.com)) for any questions.

Our theme for February is *Embodying Resilience*. Information on the introductory reading will be sent in the *UU Erie Flame* prior to February 22. Here are some ideas we will discuss. Hope to see you there!

- Have you been trying to act strong for far too long?
- What if resilience is not about holding tight against the wind, but letting go and trusting the wind to take you where you need to go next?
- Why do you keep pushing through when you could save yourself by courageously quitting?

### **A COMMUNITY PRAYER VIGIL IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

at Perry Square across from the federal courthouse, sponsored by NETWORK's Erie Chapter and Benedictine's for Peace, 12:15-12:45. The monthly event is intended to show solidarity with families affected by deportation and immigration enforcement.

## Board of Trustees Minutes - Thursday, January 15, 2026 6:30pm

Attendance - Kelly Armor, Dixie Morrow, Beth Kopay, Michael Long, Marcella Smith, Chris Brown, Andrew Greene

Chalice lighting and check in

Call to Order [Approval of December Minutes](#) Motioned: Beth Seconded: Chris Approved

### Finance Report

#### Old Business

1. UUErie T-Shirts: Update from Michael with design and quotes. He recommends using Leadhead. Folks suggested they'd like choices (Tank tops, Vinyl Image to iron on ourselves, women's cuts, sweatshirts, etc.)

*Action item for Michael: Request mock up design from Nanci then email it to board with a link to Leadhead's shirt colors and other choices.*

2. Status on Pride Flag - It is done and hanging!
3. Thoughts about using the backs of We Celebrate Diversity sign and Established in 1898 signs that flank driveway. We suggested adding color to the UU signs to catch the eye better. This wouldn't require congregational approval as this is just a "refresh". Could we put a rainbow flag on the back of the sign?  
*Action Item: Chris will reach out to the Aesthetics committee with our suggestions, asking for their advice.*

4. Committee business:

- a. i. Social Justice update

–Women's Care Center revoked as special collection: *It turns out they are an anti-abortion group. Dixie suggested that the website be in the Flame along with the blurb about the special collection organization.*

*Action Step: The Social Justice Committee will come up with a plan to vet the special collection orgs that we do not already have personal knowledge of.*

- b. Communications Committee update: We let Raven Clark go as our media consultant.

*Action Step: Chris will reach out to Erie Gay News about us and get feedback about how we can be more visible to LBTGQ+ communities.*

- c. Search Committee needs a board approved draft ministerial contract for any prospective ministers.

*Motion to accept the draft of the ministerial agreement with the understanding that it is just a draft, and giving Nanci discretion to revise the draft, taking into consideration the board's strong suggestions, and to then share the prospective minister the draft.*

*Motioned: Marcella Seconded: Michael Motion Passed.*

*Action step: Kelly to discuss board's suggested amendments with Nanci.*

- d. Bobbie Colt budget request for up to \$300 this fiscal year to spend on training and CLM retreat expenses. Motion to grant this request: Motioned: Michael Seconded: Beth

*Action Item: Kelly will let Bobbi and Finance Committee know.*

7. Council Meeting (Committee Chairs) set for 10am via Zoom on **Saturday**, January 17. Tentative agenda items are:
  - ii. [Review announcements portal](#) The board consensus was that this is a useful way for people to think everything through.
  - ii Getting budget numbers from everyone in a timely way. Nanci will be reaching out soon.
  - iii Discuss terms for committee chairs
  - iv Promote the use of Google docs (or other collaborative system) to preserve and communicate the “institutional memory” of committees
  - v Communications and face to face conversations for getting things done
  - vi How do we bring in more people and retain them when they do come?
  - vii What do they think about putting up a sign on the back of the existing sign?
8. February 15th Congregational Meeting at noon Tentative agenda
  - a. Sunday Services Committee wants to change their name to Living Worship Committee  
*Motion to take to the congregation a vote to change the Sunday Services committee name to “Living Worship Committee” Motioned: Marcella Seconded: Michael —Passed*
  - b. *Report by Bobbie Colt, Commissioned Lay Minister in training about becoming certified. Vote of congregational confidence to confirm and affirm Bobbie’s role as CLM.*
  - c. Solar Update
  - d. Search Committee Update
  - e. T-shirt proposal?
  - f. Discussion of additional signage?

Next board meeting date – Thursday, February 19, 2026 6:30 pm., via Zoom  
Adjourned at 8:59 PM

**RECURRING EVENTS**

Worship Service in person and on Zoom. Go to [uuerie.org](http://uuerie.org) for a Zoom link. ....Sundays at 10:30 AM  
Sandwich preparation for the Upper Room Shelter..... First Sunday of the month after the service.  
Potluck lunch..... Second Sunday of the month after the service  
Theme Discussions..... Third Sunday of the month at noon  
Buddhist Sangha.....Mondays at 7:00 PM  
(first Monday of the month Zoom only, in person the rest of the month)  
Creativity Matters.....Second and Fourth Wednesdays from 6:30-8 PM  
Narcotics Anonymous.....Wednesdays at 7 PM  
Memory Café.....First and Third Thursdays of the month at 1:00 PM  
UUerie Book Club..... last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in the church library  
Atheist and Agnostic Community.....Fridays at 7:00 PM  
Alcoholics Anonymous.....Saturdays at 8:30 AM



**Administrator:**

Joanne Davis  
admin@uuerie.org Office Hours:  
Monday—Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Fridays 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Please direct all mail to:  
7180 Perry Highway,  
Erie, PA 16509

Leave Voice  
Messages  
814-864-9300

We're On The Web!

uuerie.org



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 ([kmaguire626@gmail.com](mailto:kmaguire626@gmail.com))

**Weekly Flame**

Every Thursday an update of UUErie events and news for the week is sent out via email. If you would like to be included on the UUErie email mailing list, please contact admin@uuerie.org before 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays.



**February Birthdays**

- 03 – Zoe Guy
- 04 – Bob Cullen
- 06 – Judy Morley
- 13 – Danieh Foltz
- 16 – Julie Maguire
- 18 – Lily Maguire

*The Beacon* is published monthly.

We welcome our suggestions and submissions.

**The deadline for articles for the March issue is Monday, February 16.**

Send submissions to:  
admin@uuerie.org.

Beacon Editor/Layout: Leigh Kostis and Joanne Davis.

To receive future newsletters via email link or through the mail, please register with Joanne at 814-864-9300 or [admin@uuerie.org](mailto:admin@uuerie.org).

Remember, you must register to receive a newsletter.

**Service Attendance:**

**January 4** – Jazz Funeral – Michele Paich – 39 in person, 4 virtual.

**January 11** – Jesus as a Resistance Fighter – Marcus Atkinson – 39 in person, 4 virtual.

**January 18** – How Ready Are We For A Year of Peacemaking? – Rev. Ann Keeler Evans – 33 in person, 5 virtual.

**January 25** - Practicing Resistance: An Ayurvedic Invitation to Conscious Living – Monica Graves Garcia – virtual only, 35 participants.