



The Beacon

March 2026

UU Erie Board of Trustees:
Kelly Armor, President
Dixie Morrow,
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Beth Kopay, Trustee
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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.

March Theme: Paying Attention

March 1 Chance Encounters

Speaker: Janet Krack

Some of our most important life lessons can come from unexpected meetings. This morning Janet will share a few of her most valuable insights that were gained by unexpected encounters, both funny and profound.

March 8 A Season for Nurturing Seeds

Speaker: Rev. Priscilla Richter

As winter begins to lessen its grip on the earth, we move into the life of seeds, which are little miracles waiting to begin their journey. We ponder the life of seeds and their many levels of importance in all of life.

March 15 Is there Love Alive Right Now?

Speaker: Rev. Jo Green

So many of us pay attention to world and current events and how it affects our lives. And during this time of some turmoil in our country, are we still keeping hope and love alive for each other? Are we paying attention to what can be possible? Join us this Sunday and connect to keep hope and love alive.

March 22 A Musician's Guide to Paying Attention

Led by Liz Sesler-Beckman, Victoria Angelo, and Kelly Armor

We live in troubling times. Many of us feel overwhelmed. Sometimes the simple act of paying attention can help us relieve stress, focus, and be open to the joy around us. Three musicians will share how we can all access the nurturing power of our common humanity with story and song. Stewardship Pledge Campaign begins today.

March 29 Paying Attention

Speaker: elise michaux

We like to think of ourselves as fair-minded people — and most of us genuinely are. Yet implicit bias shapes our perceptions and actions in ways that often contradict our deepest values. Drawing on social science research and UU principles, this talk explores what it means to truly pay attention — and why noticing is the first step toward change.

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.*

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON MARCH 1

Janet Krack, a third generation member of UU Erie, graduated from McDowell High School and Antioch College. She served two years in the Peace Corps (in its early days) in the Philippines. Her 30 year teaching career was spent in both California and Pennsylvania. Janet currently enjoys reading, gardening, music, writing and theater of all types. She is our guardian of the Steinway, often accompanies hymns, and has enriched many Sunday mornings with the sweet sounds of her flute.

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON MARCH 8

Rev. Priscilla Richter is a retired UU minister who has served 5 UU congregations in her career. She now resides in Erie and works at the Emmaus Soup Kitchen, Benedictines for Peace, and other peace and justice organizations. She has worked for social justice issues much of her life and is an avid reader and walker.

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON MARCH 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).

BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR SPEAKERS ON MARCH 22

Kelly is a freelance folklorist, musician, and storyteller. Liz Sesler-Beckman, a brilliant pianist and educator, has performed in Japan, Europe, and the United States. She recently returned to her hometown of Erie after 35 years of living in Baltimore. Victoria Angelo was raised in Uganda and South Sudan. Because of war she fled Africa with her family and settled in Erie in 2003. She has done many programs on African culture, song, dance, and storytelling across our region. This trio combines storytelling, vocals, keyboard, flutes, and percussion and mixes jazz, traditional songs, and original compositions.

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON MARCH 29

elise michaux aka “the encourager” is a keynote speaker, educator, workshop facilitator, and consultant. You might notice that elise lowercases her name. During undergrad, elise read “Ain’t I A Woman” by queer activist and feminist [bell hooks](#) and it changed her life. As a nod to her and its profound impact, she too lowercases her name.

elise presents on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. Her research, publications and presentations focus on inclusive leadership practices and policies. Outside of her professional duties, elise enjoys attending concerts, exploring new coffee shops and breweries as well as the art of photography.

THE SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR MARCH – FAIRNESS PA

Fairness PA is a statewide civil rights advocacy organization dedicated to fair treatment and civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Pennsylvanians. Their mission is to ensure LGBTQ+ people can be open, honest and safe at home, at work, and in the community. They are open to everyone who believes in fundamental fairness. Please donate generously, Use the small brown envelopes in the collection basket to make a donation. Thank you. For more information please visit: <https://www.fairnesspenn.org/>

Welcome to Paying Attention

Theme Discussion for Sunday, March 15, 2026 Noon--1:00 P.M.

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) for any questions.

Our theme for March is *Paying Attention*. Information on the introductory reading will be sent in the *UU Eerie Flame* prior to March 15. Here are some ideas we will discuss. Hope to see you there!

- As you've aged, what new things have grabbed your attention in a way they haven't before? How are you a different kind of person because of this?
- Are you paying enough attention to yourself?
- When growing up, what one or two things, above all others, did your family communicate were worthy of attention? Beauty? Duty? Kindness? Humility? Honesty? Reputation? Education? Loyalty? Success? God?

FROM THE LIVING WORSHIP TEAM

(previously known as the Sunday services
planning committee)

The Living Worship Team would like
to hear your suggestions.

We are beginning to prepare for the
next liturgical year.

Talk with Bobbie Colt or Dixie Morrow.

NAME TAG RACK

The name tag rack has recently been organized and name tags put in the correct slots. New slots have been created for some of the name tags where multiple tags were in the same slot. There are 2 lists next to the name tag rack--one in numerical order and the other in alphabetical order. We would appreciate keeping the name tags in order so that new tags can be added without confusion. Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Membership Committee

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026 6:30pm

Attendance - Kelly Armor, Dixie Morrow, Beth Kopay, Michael Long, Marcella Smith, Chris Brown, Andrew Greene. Absent: Diane Guthrie

Chalice lighting and check in

Call to Order [Approval of January Minutes](#) *No changes*

Finance Report (use financials from Congregational Meeting, [balance sheet](#), [statement of activities](#))

Use committee reports from [Congregational Meeting](#)

Old Business

1. Action Item: T-Shirts: Michael will get T-shirt design from Nanci Lorei.
2. Thoughts about using the backs of We Celebrate Diversity sign and Established in 1898 signs that flank the driveway. Chris will reach out to the Aesthetics committee asking for advice?
3. Committee business:
 - a. Social Justice update:
 - i. Chris reached out to Erie Gay News about us and is getting feedback about how we can be more visible to LBTGQ+ communities?
 - ii. They will discuss how to vet special collection organizations at their next meeting.
 - b. Communications Committee is seeking to hire an outreach coordinator. *Kelly will ask Joanne to put a link to the Announcement portal in each Beacon and Flame.*
4. Personnel Matters
Nour Alsaffan and Cecilia are both pregnant! Chris will make two baby beanies. Lynne Brown has purchased a car seat for Nour. *The board will give each of them a card and personally donate some funds.*

New Business:

1. [Chalice Lighters Grants](#) We looked over the website and considered it as a way to get potential funding. *We will bring it up at the next congregational meeting.*
2. We discussed the possibility of having a retreat, perhaps just for the board, or just for board and committee chairs, or perhaps for the entire congregation to build community.


GROW THE LOVE 2026-2027 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CAMPAIGN



Our 2026-27 *Grow the Love* Stewardship Pledge Campaign will begin on Sunday, March 22. All members and friends who pledged last year will receive a mailing during the week of March 22. Please read the brochure carefully to consider which giving level fits your family. Are you able to move to an increased level this year?

We will begin collecting the pledge and stewardship forms on Sunday, March 29. The *Pledge Form* indicates the financial contribution your family intends to make for the 2026-27 fiscal year (July 1-June30). The Board of Trustees will determine the 2026-27 budget to present to the congregation in June based on the amount pledged. On the reverse side is the *Stewardship Form* which shows the many opportunities you have to give of your time and talent during the coming year. The Committees will determine the amount of support they will have for their projects based on the stewardship signups received. Please be as generous as you possibly can! We can *Grow the Love* with the support of all of our members and friends! Thank you!

Edie Cultu and Leigh Kostis, Stewardship Pledge Campaign Co-chairs



Singer-songwriter
eco-activist and
former guitarist with
the Paul Winter Consort

Jim Scott

Some kind of a magician
-Pete Seeger

His music sings of the life spirit
-Paul Winter

Sunday
March 8, 2026
1:30 pm

suggested donation \$20

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Erie**
7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA 16509

Alice Frazier Performance

Only Love

Saturday, March 14th, 3:30 p.m.

Doors open at 3:10 pm

UU Erie, 7180 Perry Highway

New York Cabaret & Concert Artist AND Erie native will perform her show, "Only Love", featuring, *What a Wonderful World, Somewhere in Time/A Time for Us, Love is In the Air, Can't Take My Eyes Off of You* and more... \$15 per person - Special price for UU members, payment for UU members accepted at the door. All are welcome. (\$23 per person for nonmembers).

Pick up formal flyers at UU with all information /bio. Google Alice Frazier Broadway Reservations payable to Alice McCullough (Married name). Please send to 726 Pin Oak Dr. Erie, PA 16504 by March 8th. Refunds to March 13th.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie
Poster materials provided or bring some



Rise up, take to the streets, and say it loud: no thrones, no crowns, no kings. We're not watching history happen — we're making it.

Join us.

Noon until 2 p.m. Perry Square Erie

SPRING FOR A LITTLE DINNER

As the weather warms and the flowers bloom, let's get together to share some of the springtime joy! Just as we like to see the warm sunshine, we also like to see the warm smiles of our congregants as we gather together for a meal and conversation. Some of our UU friends have volunteered their homes to host a little dinner. The host provides the house and beverages. The guests bring the food. What an easy way to spend time together and have a good time! Look on the Information Wall in the Olympia Brown room for sign-up opportunities or contact Edie Cultu (edie_cultu@yahoo.com) to help you find a time and location. Find a dinner that best fits your schedule and then sign up for one of the foods to provide. Let's enjoy spring together!



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

The Beacon is published
monthly.
We welcome our suggestions
and submissions.
**The deadline for articles for
the April issue is
Friday, March 13.**

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.

Remember, you must register to
receive a newsletter.

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.

March Birthdays

- 01 – Josh Brown
- 15 – Matthew Maguire
- 23 – Mary Desmone
- 23 – Ron Brown
- 25 – Tammie Johnson
- 26 – Ray Sherman
- 27 – Christine Brown
- 31 – Dennis Vickery



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

Service Attendance:

- February 1** – How the Sunday Sausage is Made – 32 in person, 6 virtual.
- February 8** – The Many Faces of Humor – Steve Sullivan and Bruce Getsinger – 36 in person, 12 virtual.
- February 15** – The Resisters and Peacemakers in Unitarian Universalism – Rev. Jo Green – 37 in person, 9 virtual.
- February 22** – Hold On! – Rev. Chuck Cammarata – 37 in person, 6 virtual.