



The Beacon

July 2026

Sunday Services - Begin at 10:30 and last approximately 60-75 minutes and are available both in person only until September.

Summer Lite

UU Eerie Board of Trustees:

Kelly Armor

Michael Balsan

Chris Brown

Andrew Greene

Dixie Morrow

Marcella Smith

Steve Sullivan

Diane Guthrie, Treasurer

**JULY 5 THE SCEPTIC, THE PILGRIM AND THE PROPHET:
TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE RIGHT**

Speaker: Rev. Michael McGee, Facilitator: Pat Lorei

UU Eerie will attend the service at the Chautauqua Institution at the outdoor Hall of Philosophy. There will be no service at the UU Eerie building on July 5. This has become an annual tradition, and we encourage everyone to attend this service at Chautauqua, presented by Rev. Michael McGee. It's about a 45-minute drive - service starts at 9:30 AM. Parking and admittance to the grounds is free on Sundays. Generally, some folks will meet in the church parking lot around 8 AM for car-pooling.

This service can be a nice change of pace for those who wish to take advantage of it.

Also, let's really get the word out - I know not everyone reads all their emails, and we don't want anyone showing up expecting a usual service and being disappointed.

JULY 12 MANY CLUES, SHARED UNDERSTANDING

Speaker: Josh Brown

Join us as we explore what tabletop games can teach us about community, cooperation, and connection. Around a game table, we practice many of the same skills that help spiritual communities thrive - listening, trust, creativity, patience, and making room for different ways of thinking. Together, we'll celebrate play as a form of connection and joy in our spiritual lives.

JULY 19 ECSTATIC DANCE IN ERIE

Speaker: Susannah Faulkner, Facilitator: Kelly Armor

Ecstatic dance gatherings happen around the world and offer something rare: a substance-free space to move, release, connect, and feel alive together. It's part dance floor, part meditation hall, part community ritual. Meet the organizers of Erie's "Dance Church" and get a taste of this spiritual practice that welcomes all ages, bodies, and abilities.

JULY 26 SMALL GROUP GATHERING

Facilitator: Dixie Morrow

We'll look at the principles and how they influence our daily lives, our relationships, and our congregation. Do we have a favorite principle, or one that is difficult? Is there a principle that we don't totally agree with, or one that we don't quite understand?

Everyone will have an opportunity to share their thoughts, but there will be no obligation to speak. After the service, conversation can continue along with light refreshments in the Olympia Brown room.

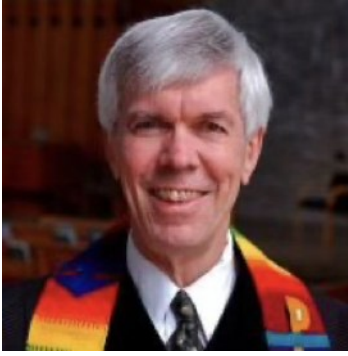
Mission
INSPIRE, CONNECT, ACT
We are a vibrant and inclusive religious community.

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.*

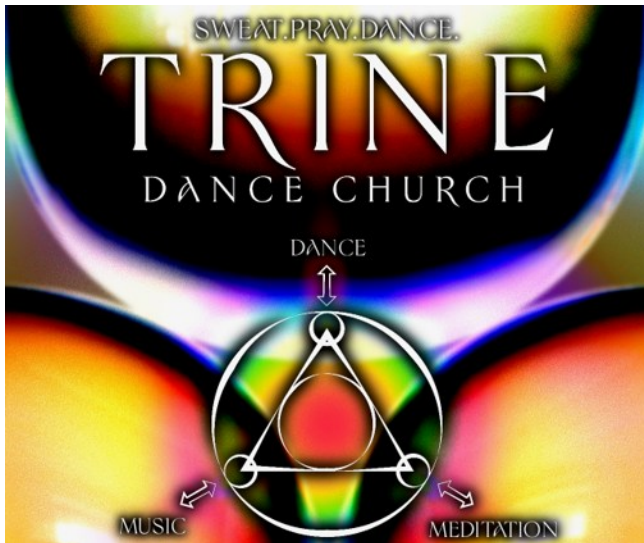
BIOGRAPHY OF THE JULY 6th SPEAKER AT CHAUTAUQUA



Reverend Michael McGee grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and served 40 years as a Unitarian Universalist minister, including congregations in Roanoke, Virginia; Meadville, Pennsylvania; New Orleans, Louisiana; Cleveland, Ohio; and Arlington, Virginia, before retiring in 2012. He and his wife Terry live in Asheville, NC, and they have four grown children and four amazing grandchildren. Terry (Emilie Richards) is the author of 80 novels, and Michael is the author of, "Why? Life's Seven Biggest Questions," which can be found on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON JULY 12

Josh holds a B.S. in Social Science from Rogers State University (Claremore, OK). He is a former board member for Sunday Assembly Nashville, an agnostic/atheist congregation, and also served as the chairperson for their Wonder More committee (their equivalent of UU Erie's Living Worship Team) for 4 years. Josh has been a Trekkie since 1991 and his favorite captain is Deep Space Nine's Benjamin Sisko.



ERIE'S "DANCE CHURCH" TEAM INCLUDES

Susannah Faulkner, a dancer, activist, and the Director of Erie Arts & Culture.

Sarah Moody, an artist, curator, and yoga/meditation teacher the Director of Community, Art and Programming at 1020 Collective.

Savannah Wilson, a visionary, artist, and civic innovator working at the intersection of spirituality, technology, and social transformation.

Aaron Homerski, a multimedia artist and DJ who works in crochet, 3D sculpting, drawing, photogrammetry, and animation.

Rick Bowser, a multi-instrumentalist and music producer, is the Director of 1020 Collective.

BIOGRAPHY OF OUR FACILITATOR ON JULY 26

Dixie Morrow has been a member of UU Erie for twenty-six years, including six years of coordinating our small satellite group in Oil City.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Marcus Atkinson, who graced our pulpit this spring with an excellent sermon, is the interim director of the Martin Luther King Center. He personally reached out to us because there is such need in their community.

They are especially hoping to identify a few committed individuals to serve with their food pantry at least one day per week. Their pantry operation has grown, and they are packaging more, delivering more, and building more efficient systems and processes to better serve the families who depend on them.

They are also looking for volunteers with skills in social media, graphic design, communications, and administrative support. These volunteers can be a tremendous help to us, and the work can be done virtually.

If you are interested, contact Joanne at admin@uuerie.org, and she will put you in touch with Marcus and his team!

T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

We have a t-shirt fundraiser through Custom Ink. Each shirt costs \$30 and we need at least 11 t-shirts ordered to get them printed. (If we don't have at least 11 t-shirts sold, your money will be refunded.) [You can see the design and put your order in now.](#) If you wish to have something other than a basic t-shirt, you can still use the design to imprint on other things (like hoodies or tank tops), but it won't generate funds for the congregation.

The sale will only be live through July 18. Please order your shirt today!



SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Corn Roast will take place on Sunday, August 23, at Presque Isle, Beach 1 Pavilion. Note the change in location. More information to follow.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 6.28.26

Leigh Kostis, Chair and Edie Cultu. There are also 7 greeters who are not official members of the committee.

We have welcomed approximately 103 unique visitors this year, many of them attending once for a specific service and/or speaker. We have made 17 blue name tags for visitors who attended 3 times or more, and they have been added to Realm to receive the *Beacon* if they provided us with an email address. Many of these "blue name tag" people did not return for a 4th visit for unknown reasons.

Unfortunately, no *UU 101 Class*, or similar was presented this year. We need to do better, however, as a committee of 2 we need assistance.

One new member was welcomed into the congregation this year. As of June 1, 2026, there were 73 voting members of the UUerie Congregation.

Joanne Davis continues to contact first time visitors with a welcome email, if provided. Blue name tag people are also added to the *Weekly Flame*.

Revised greeter instructions have been written. Edie intends to conduct a welcoming session for greeters in August or early September.

Although not a direct responsibility of the Membership Committee, Leigh has been facilitating discussions on the third Sunday each month from September through June on the *Soul Matters* theme. We have averaged 10 participants a month, often with newcomers attending. She plans to continue these discussions next year with the 2026-27 themes; others are welcome to lead a month as facilitator.

Assistance needed:

- Welcome anyone to the committee who is interested in membership.
- Find another person willing to contact new visitors who attend either in person or on Zoom after their first and second visit. These contacts would be by email or phone. A script would be provided.
- **It is most important for all congregational members to realize that they are part of the welcoming committee and meet and greet newcomers.**

Submitted by Leigh Kostis, Chair

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 18, 2026 5:00pm VIA ZOOM

Board Members Attending: Kelly Armor, Michael Long, Dixie Morrow, Christine Brown,
Absent: Marcella Smith, Diane Guthrie, Andrew Greene.

Check In

Chalice lighting

Call to Order Approval of [May Minutes](#)

Motioned: Dixie Seconded: Chris

Finance Report and Budget Discussion with Nanci

The committee chairs generated some ideas about administrative needs they have and perhaps we can increase Joanne's hours/pay/responsibility and/or hire an additional person.

-Nanci outlined the ways she wants to change the accounting line items to make it more understandable.

-The budget does not include the cost of a minister. We will ask the congregation to vote on authorizing the board to spend up to \$9K a month to hire a full time minister, or to spend less than that on part time or specially contracted ministers.

-The roof/solar project shows a deficit, but that is misleading as we have already paid the bills for it out of our accumulated savings.

Congregational Meeting Reports

There were no requests for the Board in any of the reports.

Old Business

1. Action Item: T-Shirts: [Michael will make a t-shirt on custom ink for the board's approval.](#)
We all liked the design. Kelly wants to play around and finesse the font a bit. For a donation of \$100 we can use the slogan (because it comes from another UU who is fundraising to go to seminary). We will charge \$30 a shirt. We will make more money the more we sell. If you have special requests, that can be arranged, but the pricing will be different.
2. Committee business:
Social Justice update *Chris updated us on the Table at the Pride event this summer.*
Kelly gave update on letter from Marcus Atkinson asking for two volunteers for MLK Center's food pantry, and consider MLK as a special collection beneficiary.
-Kelly put an article in the Beacon and notified Social Justice and Caring committees.
3. Status on asking Terry to be our [Minister Emeritus?](#)
-Terry was very happy to accept. We could have a ceremony during the Water Communion in September.
4. Update on Chris Brown using the kitchen as she starts her baking business. We got our water tested and it looks like it will pass a health department test with no problems. Another person (a non-member) also reached out to us inquiring about using our kitchen for her baking business as well.
-"Limited Food Establishment" lisenche does not require the kitchen to be certified, only the person using the kitchen. Kelly will put Chris in touch with prospective renter.
5. Board replacements for Michael Long and Beth Kopay will be Michael Balsan and Steve Sullivan

New Business:

1. Mike Balsan requests UUErie to purchase an ad in the placemats for Rotary Pancake breakfast placemats. They serve about 1500 people during Discover Presque Isle. Sponsorship is \$150, including social media recognition, church logo inclusion on the breakfast placemats and two tickets to the event. Mike will split the cost with the congregation (as discussed with Nanci) after board approval.

Motion: by Dixie *We will provide the \$75 requested*

Second: Michael, PASSED

Congregational Meeting Agenda

a. Finance report, vote to approve budget, and vote on Motion from Nanci authorizing the board to spend up to \$9000 for ministerial costs.

JUNE MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

- b. Vote on Dixie’s motion having Terry Kime as our minister Emeritus as soon as possible
- c. T-Shirt design is ready
- d. Vote on Michael’s motion on incoming board members, Mike and Steve
- e. Report from Bobbie on GA
- f. Report from Search Committee laying out the issues
- g. Stewardship report followed by discussion around Fundraising (Kelly, Nanci and Chris will meet to come up questions to ask and ways to collect congregational input)
- h. Discussion around how to use our budget to help us thrive without a minister

Next board meeting date – Thursday, July 16, 2026 3pm in person at church

Motion to adjourn: Dixie Seconded: Chris



Wednesday, July 29th we’ll be discussing *A Marriage at Sea* by Sophie Elmhirst.

We’ll take off the month of August.

For Wednesday, September 30th, we’ll read *Simply More* by Cynthia Arrivo, the star of the play, *Wicked*.

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month in the church library at 7:00. All are welcome.

RECURRING EVENTS

- Worship Service in person only.....Sundays at 10:30 AM.
- Sandwich preparation for the Upper Room Shelter..... First Sunday of the month after the service.
- Buddhist Sangha.....Mondays at 7:00 PM (first Monday of the month Zoom only, in person the rest of the month).
- Memory Café.....First and Third Thursdays of the month at 1:00 PM.
- UU Erie Book Club..... Last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in the church library.
- Narcotics Anonymous.....Wednesdays at 7 PM.
- Atheist and Agnostic Community.....Fridays at 7:00 PM.
- Alcoholics Anonymous.....Saturdays at 8:30 AM.
- Game Day Afternoons.....Third Saturday of each month 1-4 PM.



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 every month.

Have an announcement or event?

[Submit it here](#)

by the 15th of this month to be included in the next issue.

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.

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.



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."

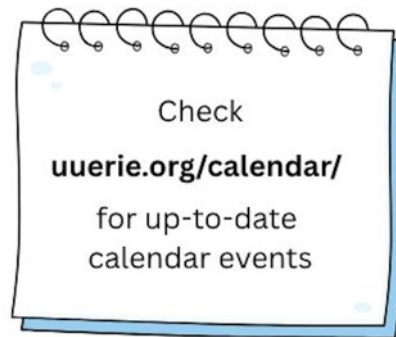
For additional information, please contact Kristin Maguire at kmaguire626@gmail.com



We are now on Instagram. Just search for The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.

July Birthdays

- 01 – Dixie Morrow
- 03 – Kristin Maguire
- 05 – Gabriel Riggin
- 09 – Brian Lorei
- 10 – Seigrid Tuttle
- 12 – Dan Crotty
- 20 – Regis Sabol
- 27 – Patty Munz
- 30 – Robin Green
- 30 – Mike Balsan



Service Attendance:

June 7 – *Lovingkindness and Truth Meet* – Julie Newman – 30 in person, 4 virtual.

June 14 – *Nourishing and Flourishing: A Potluck Service* – Kelly Armor – 33 in person, no Zoom option.

June 21 – *This Long Loneliness*– Rev. Ron Skowronski – 36 in person, 4 virtual.

June 28 – *Solar Celebration: An Electrifying Experience* - Kelly Armor – 38 in person, no Zoom option.