

UUerie Board of Trustees:

Kelly Armor, President

Dixie Morrow,
Vice President

Michael Long, Secretary

Chris Brown, Trustee

Andrew Greene, Trustee

Marcella Smith, Trustee

Diane Guthrie, Treasurer

The Beacon

June 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.
June Theme: Flourishing Together

JUNE 7 CHESED V'EMET NIFGASHU - LOVINGKINDNESS AND TRUTH MEET

Speaker: Julie Newman, Service Associate: Beth Kopay

"Lovingkindness and truth meet; justice and peace kiss." Ps 85:11

In Jewish contemplative practice, this ancient verse offers a path. In meditation, we begin inside - meeting what is true in ourselves honestly, yet with kindness. From there, we turn outward: toward justice, toward peace, toward one another. Julie Newman, cantor and Jewish meditation teacher, will offer a brief teaching and guided meditation following this path. No prior experience required. All are welcome.

JUNE 14 NOURISHING AND FLOURISHING: A POTLUCK SERVICE

Facilitators: Kelly Armor, Dixie Morrow

Once again we are combining our monthly potluck with our Sunday Service. We'll join in the Olympia Brown Room for storytelling, music, and a communal meal. Many faiths use food rituals as a path to gratitude. Our own potlucks are proof of how we celebrate unity in diversity. Come join us for brunch and fellowship! Please plan to bring something to share at this potluck. We request finger foods, like sandwiches, bagels, veggie and fruit trays, chips, and desserts like cookies. This will help minimize labor (which allows everyone to participate in the service) and reduce waste. *Note: There will be no Zoom option for this service. It is in person only. This service is multigenerational. There will be food for all.*

JUNE 21 THIS LONG LONELINESS

Speaker: Rev. Ron Skowronski, Service Associate: CL Minister Bobbie Colt

It's Father's Day all over our nation, and men who identify as fathers are firing up the barbecue. Unpacking many ugly ties. Expressing gratitude for some form of "Grace" that has gotten them through another year of paternity. Rev. Ron will strive to inform us of the deepest spiritual meaning of fatherhood, a meaning all too many people are oblivious to. No matter how you have experienced paternity... This message is for YOU!

JUNE 28 SOLAR CELEBRATION: AN ELECTRIFYING EXPERIENCE!

Facilitator: Kelly Armor

One year ago we made the bold move to reroof our building and install a large solar array. Join us as we "flip the switch" and celebrate that we're one of the first religious institutions in Erie to go solar. We're inviting the local media and the environmental community as well. We'll have stories, songs, sunflowers, and sparklers for all! This is the start of our Summer Lite services, which are less formal. As with all Summer Lite services it will NOT be available via Zoom. After the service, we'll have a reception honoring those donors who helped make it possible. We'll have our June Congregational Meeting at noon after the reception (which you can join virtually).



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 JUNE 7

Julie Newman is a cantor, Jewish meditation teacher, and the founder of Tiferet Project, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit offering contemplative practices rooted in Jewish wisdom. She holds cantorial ordination and a Master of Jewish Education from Hebrew College, and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University. Julie completed Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and is a fellow of its Marybeth Fellowship for senior Jewish meditation teachers and an active member of its Hevraya community. Through Tiferet Project, she leads meditation, sound baths, yoga, chant, and retreat, weaving together Jewish mystical teaching and embodied **practice for seekers of all.**



BIOGRAPHY OF OUR SPEAKER ON JUNE 21

The Reverend Ronald Skowronski has been involved in Liberal Faith and Theology since he was first ordained at the age of 25. As he approaches 70 this August, he is grateful that his final landing pad is Unitarian-Universalism. He has been the Minister of the UU Congregation of Northern Chautauqua in Fredonia, NY, for the past 2 years. He works for a world that works for everyone!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 28 AT NOON

Attend in person or [via Zoom at this link](#)

Members are requested to attend our June meeting. We will vote on the budget for the new fiscal year and incoming board members. With the real possibility of not finding a minister, we will also discuss how to best move forward and chart a course so we can thrive.

UUERIE MEMBERS CAN ATTEND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT NO COST! - General Assembly is the UUA's annual convening this year from June 14-21. Our delegates are Chris Brown and Bobbie Colt, and they'll be attending all the business sessions and representing us and voting on UUA policy. GA is also chock full of worship, meetings, and workshops. This year GA is completely virtual. Because we've paid for both our delegates, the UUA has invited ANYONE from our congregation to attend at no cost. Email Kelly.b.armor@gmail.com for instructions and promo code.



GROW THE LOVE PLEDGE/STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2026-2027

The following is the final report for the 2026-2027 pledge campaign. Thank you to all those who took the time to respond and gave generously to pledge **\$131,086**. **The request from the Board of Trustees was for \$152,400 to maintain all programs at their current level with modest staff increases. The deficit to be made up would be \$21,324.**

In addition there were people who volunteered for all our activities as part of the Stewardship part of the campaign. These names will be turned over to the leaders of the committees and activities for their future work. Thank you for all who volunteered!

A special thank you to Joanne Davis who greatly assisted us with this campaign. Thanks also to Kelly Armor, Dixie Morrow, and Nanci Lorei who contacted people who did not return their pledges in a timely manner.

Here is a numerical breakdown of the campaign. A complete analysis will be included in the report for the congregational meeting on June 28, 2026.

Number of letters sent: 71 Number of responses received: 60 Return rate: 85% (last year 86%)

Number of pledges received: 60—85% of letters sent (compared to pledges last year: 65)

Pledged an increase over last year: 19—31% (compared to 32% last year)

Pledged the same as last year: 27—45% (compared to 28% last year)

Pledged a decrease under last year: 13—22% (compared to 13% last year)

New pledges: 1—2% (compared to 7 new pledges last year)

Stated they were not pledging: 0—0% (compared to 3 stated not pledging last year)

No response—11—15% (compared to 11 not responding last year)

It's never too late to pledge! Contact the office (814-864-9300 or admin@uuerie.org) to complete a pledge form!

Submitted by Leigh Kostis and Edie Cultu, Pledge/Stewardship Campaign Team

The UU Erie Talent Show!!!



Saturday, June 6, 7-8 pm,
at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie
7180 Perry Highway

This is a fund raiser: We're asking \$5 donation for all attendees.
We will have a rehearsal right before the show (please arrive early on June 6 for a rehearsal).
We will also have baked goods for sale as part of the program.

Questions? Call Dan Tingley 814-746-8633

KELLY'S WORLD IN CONCERT

Sunday, June 14, 1:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie
7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA



Kelly's World is a trio that blends infectious grooves, lush harmonies and deep joy. They combine jazz, original compositions, and songs and stories from East Africa. Kelly Armor (on flutes, vocals, and percussion) is a well-known Erie performer, composer and folklorist who has toured across the country. Liz Sesler-Beckman is a brilliant pianist who has performed internationally and has recently moved back to Erie after a 35 year musical career in Baltimore. Victoria Angelo is a traditional both dancer and storyteller who grew up in South Sudan and Uganda. She has called Erie home for two decades and is a cultural ambassador and force of nature. As a trio, their inventive arrangements mixing American and African sensibilities are fresh, powerful and joyful.

Suggested donation is \$20/person. It is a fundraiser for UU Erie's social justice work.

For more information call 814-602-0619.



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.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2026 6:30pm

Attending: Kelly Armor, Michael Long, Marcella Smith, Andrew Greene

Absent: Diane Guthrie, Chris Brown, Dixie Morrow

Check In

Chalice lighting

Call to Order **Approval of [April Minutes](#)**

Motioned: Michael Seconded: Andrew

Finance Report and Budget Discussion with Nanci Lorei

Nanci indicated that the pledges are now in, and it is a little down from last year due to people moving away, but others raised their pledge.

Cash wise we are very liquid as we don't have minister expenses. But we are not financially capable to be competitive to attract a minister. We can still put our excess cash aside to help fund a minister, but it would only last about three years.

Consensus was to:

- Add \$5000 to the budget for IT support so we can hire someone to help us set up and manage Google Workspace
- Present a similar motion at the Cong. Mtg. authorizing the board to spend up to \$9000 for ministerial costs.
- At the Council meeting we can ask them what administrative needs they have and perhaps we increase Joanne's hours/pay/responsibility or hire someone else.

Ginny Sabol request about Caring Committee unspent funds. Kelly will reach out to Ginny to say it isn't under the purview of the Committee to make donations to other entities (no matter how worthy). If they want to organize themselves to serve at Emmaus or collaborate with Sarah Reed as another outreach project, then funds could be used.

[Committee Reports](#) (via Survey)

Old Business

1. Action Item: T-Shirts: Michael will make a t-shirt on custom ink for the board's approval.

New Business:

1. Board discussed replacements for Trustees to replace Michael Long and Beth Kopay

Next board meeting date – Thursday, June 18, 2026 4:00 pm., meet in person if possible.



**ERIE SINGING
RESISTANCE**

NEXT MEET-UP

WEDS JUNE 10, 2026 | 6PM
FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF GIRARD
107 MYRTLE STREET, GIRARD PA

PIRiseUp@gmail.com for more info



Potluck

UUERIE POTLUCK VOLUNTEERS

The second Sunday of each month

June 14 -- Potluck Liturgy (Service in the Olympia Brown room with the service and the potluck combined)
Please bring finger foods and sandwiches to share!

Set up volunteers: Chris Brown
Nanci Lorei
UUerie Choir

Clean up volunteers: Dan Tingley
Andrew Greene
Michael Long

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR POTLUCKS THIS YEAR!
POTLUCKS COULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU!
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



The UUerie Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Our book for June will be *A Marriage at Sea* by Sophia Elmhurst. The July 29th book will be *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

Our meetings start at 7:00 at the UUerie building, and all are welcome.

ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CO-CHAIRS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND A COUNCIL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 13 AT 10AM VIA ZOOM.

We will be discussing needs for the upcoming year and ways to handle a potential lack of a minister. [Zoom link is here.](#) If you can't attend, please send a representative from your committee!

RECURRING EVENTS

Worship Service in person and on Zoom. Go to 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).
 What's on Your Mind Zoom Gathering.....every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 PM.
 Creativity Matters.....Second and Fourth Wednesdays from 6:30-8 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.
 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.



NWPA PRIDE ALLIANCE  Our Community. Our Pride.
Celebrating the Queer Community

MAKE WAVES **NWPA PRIDE 2026**
Pride Bay
on the Bay

SATURDAY JUNE 27

Rebich Investments Amphitheater at Liberty Park
Gates Open: NOON | Runs Until 5:00 PM

- Local Vendors & Artisans
- Community Resources
- Food Trucks
- Live Music & DJ
- Main Stage Drag Show
- Interactive Experiences

Free Admission. All are welcome.

NWPA PRIDE ALLIANCE

nwpride.org  /nwpride  @nwpride



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.

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.



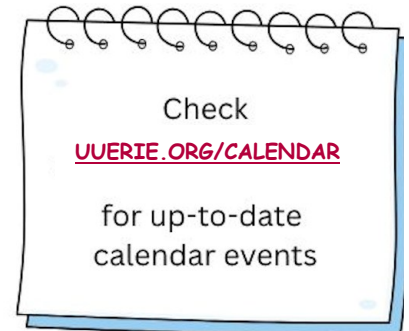
Please join our Facebook page, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie! Here you can find Sunday Service announcements, upcoming events, conversations, words of inspiration and much more." For additional information, please contact Kristin Maguire at kmaguire626@gmail.com



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

June Birthdays

- 9 – Blair Tuttle
- 10 – Selena Walter
- 11 – Roberta McCall
- 13 – Diane Guthrie
- 13 – L Riggan
- 15 – Marge Wander
- 16 – Owen Brown
- 22 – Cathay Kramer
- 23 – Jan Woods
- 23 – Lora Caldwell
- 26 – Deb Cable
- 28 – Michael Long



Service Attendance:

- May 3** – *Reaching Beloved Community Together* – Rev. Elaine Strawn and CLM Bobbie Colt – 50 in person, 6 virtual.
- May 10** – *Wonder Working Power in the Love* – Rev. Ann Keeler Evans – 27 in person, 6 virtual.
- May 17** – *Risks, Realities, and Hope for Preventing Firearm Suicide* – Dr. Jay Breneman – 33 in person, 4 virtual.
- May 24** – *History of Religion in 22.5 Minutes* - Rev. Chuck Cammarata – 36 in person, 6 virtual.
- May 31** – *Sound as Healing* – Jessica Frombach – 30 in person, 7 virtual.