

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Affiliated with the United Church of Christ & the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



August 24, 2025

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Richard W. McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Centering Music

“Spirit of the Living God” #492

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

One: O Holy One, while your Spirit breathes, inspires, opens our hearts and transforms us and the world, may our faith in You and your trustworthiness be increased. May we discover our being is already in you.

All: We worship you today, individually and communally; we are present here separately and together, and we are grateful. For we grow in our awareness of you; in, through and among us in Love. Amen!

Opening Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #71

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
Sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you:
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what Almighty can do, if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him,
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him.

*** Opening Prayer**

***The Peace of Christ**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also, with you!

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

The Sacrament of Baptism

First Reading

The Prophet Isaiah 58: 9-14

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Responsorial

Psalm 103: 1-8

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits—

One: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

All: Who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

One: Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

One: God has made known God's ways to Moses, God's acts to the people of Israel.

All: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.



***Gloria**

"Glory Be to God, Creator" #145

Glory be to God, Creator, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, known as Three, yet God the One
As it was in the beginning, it is now and so shall be,
In a world without an ending, glory through eternity.

Holy, holy God Almighty! Holy, holy Prince of Peace!
Holy, holy Wind of Presence! Holy, holy, holy! Amen!

***Gospel**

Luke 13:10-7

¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Song of Preparation "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #61

There's a wideness in God's mercy like a wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple, we would take him at his word,
And our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

Message

The Holy Work of Liberation

Rev. Evon Lloyd



Hymn

“Arise, Your Light is Come” #231

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

Celebration of Communion

Pastor: People of God, come to the table! Christ promised that as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we not only remember him, but we commune with him by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

All: This is a table of grace. There is room around it for every soul that was, and is, and is to come. We come to the table as a people who are learning the way of Christ. We confess that we are not always right. But we share this faith: that those who trust in Christ Jesus will grow in the assurance of God's eternal love.

Pastor: And so, here at this table we take bread and cup and ask the Holy Spirit to make it for us: communion with Christ, who gave his life as the bread of heaven and as the cup of eternal life.

All: Here at this table we remember that Christ gave his entire life as an outpouring of God's love—a love that will, one day, renew all things. Amen.

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!

Communion Music

“Your Love Never Fails”

Cheryl Strecker



Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")

One: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And also, with you.***

One: People of God, let us center our hearts and extend the spiritual power that is within us. *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows.... [prayer requests are presented]. We also pray for all who have asked to be on our prayer list—and so we ask: Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace. We pray together:

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For all that we hold in the silence of our hearts, we come to you in the confidence of quiet, O God, and lift our petitions privately to you. *(Silent prayer)* ... Almighty God, Sovereign of Heaven, shower your blessings upon all people! Move the mountains in our lives, or help to move us so that we might be fully at peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

All: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors—and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever." Amen.

Offering

Your offerings are first and foremost what we give to the world through justice, kindness, and mercy—and these we can do every day. Our financial contributions to the church are what allow us to support our ministries. As you can give, please do so joyfully!

If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at:

www.communityunited.church

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Offertory/Ministry of Music

"Rainbow"

Kristine Koziol

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Congregational Response #147**

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow:

Praise God, all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known! Creator, Word, and Spirit one!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

*Departing Prayer

One: Transforming God, as our hearts become increasingly open to you and your way in the world, may we be alert to the opportunities you give us to be about your holy work of freeing love, every day.

All: May we trust, O God, that you provide each of us and all of us with whatever we need to be about the holy work of love in Christ, wherever and with whomever we meet. Amen!



*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” #574

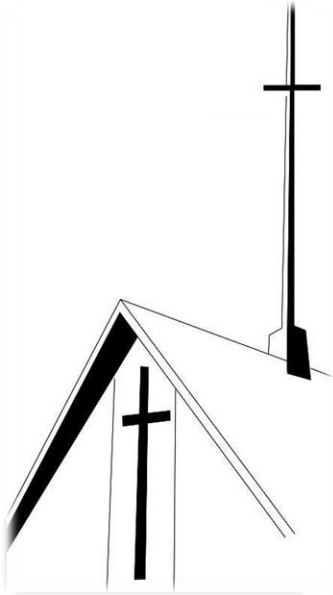
I’m gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
I’m gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I’m gonna work so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
I’m gonna work so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I’m gonna pray so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
I’m gonna pray so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

I’m gonna sing so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
I’m gonna pray so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning at
Community United Church!**



Next Week:

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings:

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Psalm 112

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Theme: Service Leadership

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect
online with a small group or church ministry?***

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(814) – 864 – 4429

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The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Lorre Rapp and Kathy Koziol in honor of the birthdays of “Sister-in-Love” Pat Smith and “Brother-in-Love” Ron Celeski

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **August 26:** Women’s Group Luncheon at noon at Calamari’s- Please see Carol Rodgers if interested in carpooling
- **September 7th: 12:15 Safety and Security training in the Sanctuary** immediately following Sunday Worship
- **October 11th:** Mark your calendars for “Fall Fest” (more to come!)

Reminders:

- ***Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.***

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jackson Feiock (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army), Jaden O’Hara (Army), Toby Charlton (Marines), Cole Posnett (Army), Hunter Miaczynski (Army) & Mathew Anderson (Army)

PRAYERS FOR:

Darek Baksik, Laura Will, Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Teddy Long, Tammy McIntyre, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Chelsea Brown, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woolegge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, Helena Burgos, The Vadzemnieks Family, Sharon Cooper, Sandra Ganley, Celeste Peck, Linda Foll Johnson, Todd Carrier, The family of Joshua Kuzma

Current Council Members:

Mike Pruzinsky (President), Debbie Anderson (Vice President), Al Tilley (Treasurer), Nancy Alberico (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Angel Conrad, Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, and Mark Davis

Need to contact our Council President? Please email at: mpruzinsky@icloud.com

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