

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



August 3, 2025

The Eighth 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!*

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Centering Music

"Make Me a Servant" #576

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

(Repeat)

Invocation:

One: Generous and gracious God, you offer riches that no earthly pleasures can match.
You pour out mercy and cover us in love. You show us true justice and offer us
peace. You provide us with every need and promise eternal life with you.

**All: In the midst of the glitz and glamour of this world, nothing, and no one, shines
with your brilliance. Bathe us in the light of Christ, illumine us with your Holy
Spirit, and enable us to live only for you and your truth. Amen!**

Opening Hymn

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" #320

Alleluia, sing to Jesus! His the scepter, his the throne:
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus, out of every nation, has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you ever more?"

Alleluia! Heavenly High Priest, here on earth our help, our stay;
Alleluia! Hear the sinful cry to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, hear our plea,
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

*** 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.

First Reading

Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Responsorial

Psalms 49:1-12

One: Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together. My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.

All: Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches? Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it. For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice, that no one should live on forever and never see the grave.

One: When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others.

All: Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own. Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish. Amen!

*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 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

“Be Thou My Vision” #502

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Message

Overcoming Greed, Finding Treasure

Pastor Joy

Hymn

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee #504

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Refrain

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

(Refrain)

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

(Refrain)



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

"How Deep the Father's Love Is For Us"

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

Your offerings make this inclusive ministry possible. Thank you! Because of you, our church reaches through and beyond Erie: providing worship, community, and service. As you can give generously, it is well received.

Offertory/Ministry of Music

"Already All I Need"

Julie Lokahi

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: Holy and loving God, we are grateful for your gifts that are poured out on us every day. Help us to know that we are blessed, and to recognize that it is through your Spirit that we are sustained.

All: May we seek the things that are of God and go forth to live lives worthy of your calling, and your never-ending love. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn “Take My Life and Let It Be” #466

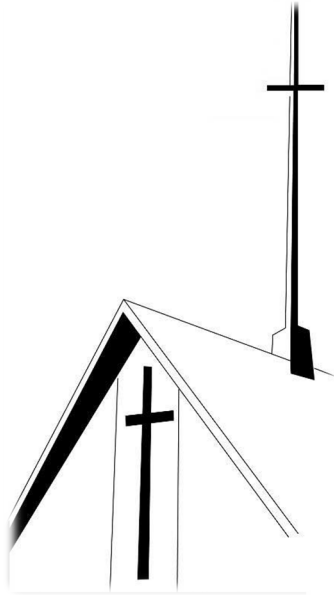
Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love,
At the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee;
Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King,
Always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for thee;
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold,
Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
Ever, only, all for thee.

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



Next Week:

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalm 33:12-22

Luke 12:32-40

Theme: Staying Alert for the Reign of God

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

1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

www.communityunited.church



Community United Church

The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of Pete Strecker on his birthday from Cheryl Strecker.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 5: "Crafternooners' Trading Card Creation and Swap" 6:00-8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
- August 12: Erie Gives midnight to midnight and Liberty House
- August 13: Spirits & Spirituality. Discussion begins at 7:00 PM at Andy's Pub
- August 17: Service Sunday
- August 18: Church Council 6:30 PM
- August 20: Resonate – Sanctuary 7:00 PM
- August 26: Women's Group noon

Reminders:

- *There are openings for you to attend an upcoming small group gathering – sign up in Fellowship Hall*
- *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:

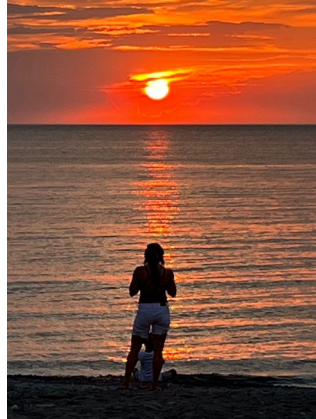
Darek Baksik, Laura Will, Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Ralph Kester, Teddy Long, Tammy McIntyre, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Chelsea Brown, Celeste Eller & Family, Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton,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

Current Council Members:

Mike Pruzinsky (President), Debbie Anderson (Vice President), Vacant (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

Wonder and the Opening of the Human Spirit
to Generosity, Creativity, and Kindness.



Attention All Creatives

**A “Collaborative Cultural Performance” will be held on
5 August 2025, Tuesday, 6:00-8:00 PM
Community United Church Fellowship Hall
*Artist Trading Cards will be Created and Swapped!***

Artist Trading Cards are 2½” by 3 ½” unique miniature works of art.

An introduction to Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) will be given.

Participants will create two cards, one to keep and one to swap,
using the theme of ***Wonder***.

The base cards will be provided as will various media: pens, colored pencils, markers,
fiber, pictures, glue, scissors.

Participants will share their creations then swap them during the final portion of the
evening.

The event is sponsored by the Crafternooners and will be led by Evon Lloyd.

If you have not yet confirmed your attendance, please see Evon.

