

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



July 12, 2026

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

**Centering Music**

"Through it all" #452

Through it all, through it all,  
I'm learning to trust in Jesus, I'm learning to trust in God;  
Through it all, through it all,  
I'm learning to depend upon God's Word.  
*(Repeat)*

**Invocation**

One: O God, in the midst of the grand immensity of your being, made manifest in all creation, and especially in Christ Jesus,

**All: we open our hearts and seek your love.**

One: We open our minds and seek your wisdom.

**All: We quiet our minds and seek your voice.**

One: We open ourselves in curiosity.

**All: We open our hands to receive your grace and  
we open our lips in worship and praise. Amen!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

"O God Beyond All Praising" #64

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end;  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

**\*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

## Genesis 29:15-28

<sup>15</sup>Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" <sup>16</sup>Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup>Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. <sup>18</sup>Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." <sup>19</sup>Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." <sup>20</sup>So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. <sup>21</sup>Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." <sup>22</sup>So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. <sup>23</sup>But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. <sup>24</sup>(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) <sup>25</sup>When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" <sup>26</sup>Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. <sup>27</sup>Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." <sup>28</sup>Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

## Second Reading

## Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Responsorial

Psalm 105:1-6,45b

One: O give thanks to the LORD; call on God's name;

**All: make known God's deeds among the peoples.**

One: Sing to God, sing praises to God;

**All: tell of all God's wonderful works.**

One: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

**All: Seek the LORD and God's strength; seek God's presence.**

One: Remember the wonderful works God has done,

**All: the miracles and the judgments God has uttered,**

One: O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

**All: Praise the LORD!**

## \*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

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with<sup>[a]</sup> three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

"Kum Ba Yah" #487

Kumbayah, my Lord, kumbayah!  
Kumbayah, my Lord, kumbayah!  
Kumbayah, my Lord, kumbayah!  
O Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's crying, Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's crying, Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's crying, Lord, kumbayah!  
O Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's singing, Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's singing, Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's singing, Lord, kumbayah!  
O Lord, kumbayah  
Someone's praying, Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's praying, Lord, kumbayah!  
Someone's praying, Lord, Kumbayah!  
O Lord, kumbayah!

Message

*Go Big or Go Home*

Evon Lloyd



## Hymn of Response

"You Are My All in All" #427

You are my strength when I am weak,  
You are the Treasure that I seek,  
you are my All in All.

Seeking you as a precious jewel,  
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool,  
You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name.

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name.

## Celebration of Communion

Pastor: Beloved children of God, as we gather at Christ's table this morning, we proclaim that this table is open to all people – no matter who you are or what you believe or what you've been told. At this table we remember the simple gathering of a chosen family all those centuries ago that came together for a meal that proclaimed a new way of being in this world.

**All: We remember God's radically inclusive love made real in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We remember the One who befriended the forgotten, embraced the outcast, and saw the image of God in all people.**

Pastor: It is here at this table that we find hope and imagination to see God's promise of wholeness, and the strength we need to continue the work of justice. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, and broke it and said, "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood, my very life, poured out for you. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**All: God, we thank you for breathing creation into existence and declaring it good. We celebrate the rich diversity of your world-- every soul, every life shaped by your grace. By your Spirit, in this holy meal, assure us that nothing can separate us from your love. Amen.**

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!

## Communion Music

"Sarabande"

Dan Bainbridge



## **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**

*Our 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](http://www.communityunited.church)**

Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:  
1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

Offertory/Ministry of Music

"Here Comes the Sun"

Dan Bainbridge  
Cheryl Strecker

Offertory 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: Jesus, Precious Treasure, you are with us in expansive, overwhelming love.

**All: May we love abundantly.**

One: Holy Spirit, you move within and among us in waves of sounds and silence.

**All: May we listen and may we speak.**

One: Divine Parent of us all, each and every,

**All: may your expansiveness and extravagant love be celebrated. Amen!**

### **\*Blessing**

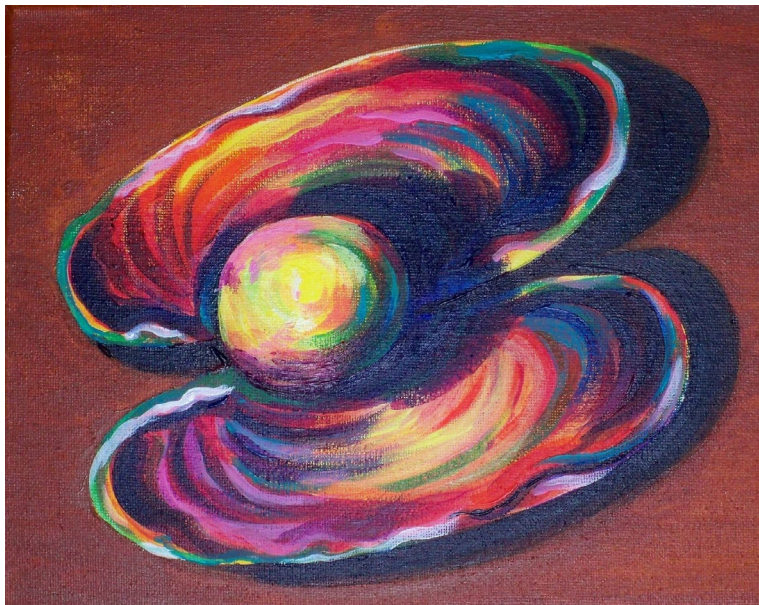
### **\*Closing Hymn**

“O Word of God Incarnate” #670

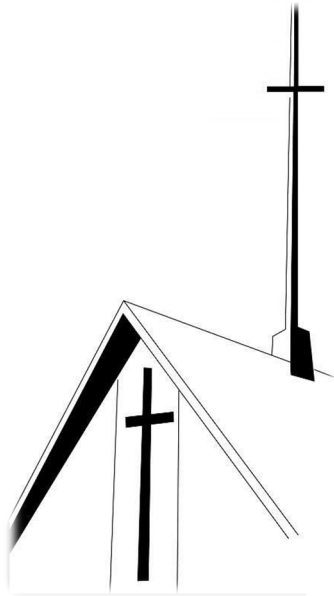
O Word of God incarnate, O wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky;  
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Church, from her dear Master, received the gift divine,  
And still that light is lifted on all the earth to shine,  
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,  
'mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,  
To bear before the nations your true light as of old;  
Teach us, your wandering pilgrims, by this our path to trace,  
Till clouds and darkness ended, we see you face to face!



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



**Next Week:  
Sunday, July 19, 2026  
11:00 AM**

*Gospel Reading from Romans 8*

**Theme: Lies We Have Been Taught**

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

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

[www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)



## Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by  
Kathy Koziol in celebration of Kathy and Jerry's 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.  
*Congratulations!***

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**July 12: Brief Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship TODAY!**

July 14: Women's Group Luncheon at noon in Fellowship Hall

July 19: Service Sunday

***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), Zachary Oliver (PA Army National Guard),  
Aran Maloney (Air National Guard), and Connor Bille (Army)

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

Linda Hilbert, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Ethel Davis, Celeste Eller & Family,  
Michele Serafin, Toni Stevenson, Sandra Ganley, Dorothy Moyer, Celeste Peck,  
Linda Foll Johnson, Shirley Carrier, Debra Jackman, Zoey Cathie Witmire,  
Laura Will, Linda Weber, Veronica, Patty Puzar, Joan Schultz, Michelle and Melissa,  
Tom and Thea Hyatt, Randy Koziol, Barbara Thompson, Tanisha and Jaeda,  
Barbara Hickey, Sandy Gool, Jim Haglund, Rosie Goss, family and friends of Lorre Rapp,  
Ruth Zavaglia, Brad Stewart, Cain Hickey, and Cal Bretz

### **Your 2026 Council Members:**

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Davis, Treasurer, Juli Tonks, Secretary,  
Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, Angel Conrad, Chuck Becker, and Don Cameron

You may call the church office at 814-864-4429 for pastoral and administrative matters  
or use email: [communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com)

Don't forget to check Facebook and our website: **[communityunited.church](https://communityunited.church)**

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in our music and livestreaming:

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## FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

2026

| Month | Revenue   | Expenses  |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| June  | \$8043.47 | \$8613.71 |

**Monthly Budget Expense Goal: \$10,434.21**

*Thank you for your contributions to  
Community United Church!*

