

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



July 13, 2025

The Fifth 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

“Ubi Caritas et Amor” #399

Ubi caritas—et amor.
Ubi caritas—Deus ibi est.

Where true charity and love abide
God is dwelling there. God is dwelling there.

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, as your people gather to worship you in spirit and in truth, we are mindful that we live in a world where counterfeit versions of spirit and truth have the power to confuse us.

All: Guide us once more into the ways of your Reign. Remind us that the measure of true spirit is the presence of love; and that the measure of divine truth is what leads to restoration and peace. This we pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. Amen!

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God” #31

I sing the almighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with the Word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed where’er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known;
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
And everywhere that I may be, you, God, are present there.

*** 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 1:3-14

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Responsorial

Psalm 25:1-10

One: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

All: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

One: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

All: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and decrees. 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 10:25-37

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

“I Love You, Lord” #85

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship you, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what you hear:
May it be a sweet, sweet sound—in your ear.

(Repeat)



Message

Learning to Love

Pastor Rich

Hymn

“Refiner’s Fire” #374

Purify my heart, let me be as gold
And precious silver.
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

Chorus:

*Refiner’s fire; my heart’s one desire
Is to be—holy, set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be—holy, set apart for you, my Master,
Ready to do your will.*

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within
And make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.
(Chorus)



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

“Be the Center”

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 comes. 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

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 "What the World Needs Now Is Love"

Leah and Addy

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, in your kingdom, to be *holy* is to be filled with love. There, also, to be *saintly* is to seek out the restoration of all people, even our enemies. As we approach the new week, help us to be so holy, and to be such kinds of saints. Remind us that your Cross teaches how to love with mercy, even when the world inflicts pain, suffering, and rejection.

All: We invite you now, O God, to meet us when we feel like our capacity to love is at an end. Meet us when we no longer see others as worthy of your grace. In these moments, help us to be more like the good Samaritan. May we dare to break down every dividing wall between people in the spirit of love. And with you, help us to endure every cross so that we might reconcile the world through mercy, until all are one in the love of God. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“I Am Thine, O Lord” #408

I am thine, O Lord—I have heard thy voice,
And it told thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to thee.

Chorus:

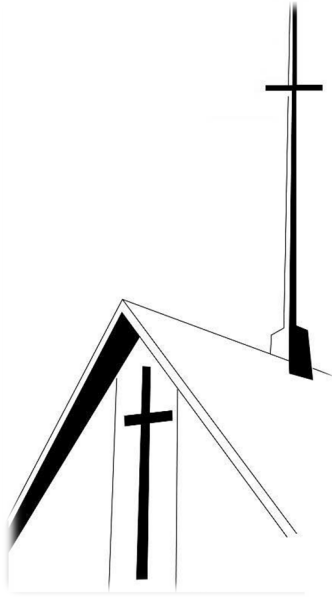
*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious bleeding side.*

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope
And my will be lost in thine. *(Chorus)*

O the pure delight of a single hour
That before thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer and with thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend. *(Chorus)*

There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with thee. *(Chorus)*

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



Next Week:
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings:

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Luke 10:38-42

Theme: To Be Martha or Mary?

***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

www.communityunited.church



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The altar the first set of flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Jerry and Kathy's 45th Wedding Anniversary!

The second set of flowers is given by Carol Rodgers in memory of her father, Walter Kurty.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 13: Today: Brown Bag Lunch – 12:30 PM
July 16: Resonate ***Outside***– 7:00 PM
July 20: Service Sunday – 12:15 PM
July 21: Church Council – 6:30 PM

Reminders:

- ***Please sign up to attend a Small Group event this summer! A light meal will be served and our hosts are looking forward to it!***
- ***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 and Dave Woledge

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

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