

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



July 20, 2025

The Sixth 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

“Holy Ground” #654

We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels—all around.
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.
(Repeat)

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, you call us to be an attentive people; to be awake to your presence in our midst—especially when you arrive in the face of the stranger, the hungry; and in all of those who are in need.

All: In this time of worship, remind us of what it means to be awake to your presence; and to give first priority to the things of the Reign of God. Amen!

Opening Hymn

“Come Away from Rush and Hurry” #655

Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God’s peace;
From our vain ambition’s worry, come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life’s demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God’s face.

In the pastures of God’s goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God’s mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God’s presence all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God’s anointing into service we are led.

Come, then, children, with your burdens—life’s confusions, fears and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead his kingdom’s reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.



*** 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

The Book of Genesis 18:1-10a

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Responsorial

Psalm 15

One: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

All: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart.

One: It is those who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors.

All: It is those in whose eyes wickedness is despised, but who honor those who revere the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved. 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 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, [Jesus] entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" #472

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in his wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace.
(Repeat)



Message

To Be Martha or Mary?

Pastor Rich

Hymn

"Seek Ye First" #349

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

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

"Amazing Love"

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

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

Meditation from Thais

Sarah Strecker

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, awaken us to the workings of your will in our midst. Keep us alert to how you show up in our lives, so that we might be fully attentive to the things of the reign of God.

All: **Keep us attentive to the things that matter, until the day when you come in the fullness of love, to renew and heal the world. Amen!**

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Rejoice, the Lord is King!” #342

Rejoice the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again, I say rejoice!*

Our Savior, Jesus reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.

*Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again, I say rejoice!*

His Kingdom cannot fail,
He rules both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given;

*Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again, I say rejoice!*

Rejoice in glorious hope
For Christ the Judge shall come
To gather all his saints to their eternal home;

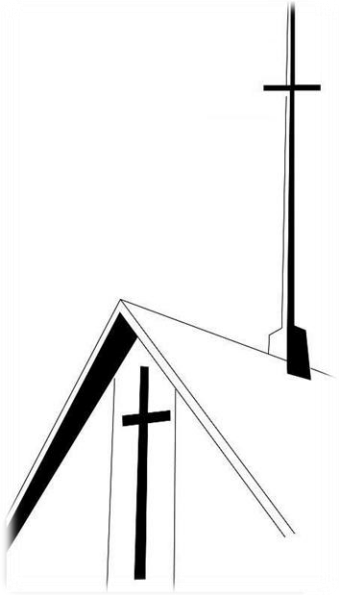
*Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again, I say rejoice!*



Postlude

Cheryl Strecker

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



Next Week:

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Readings:

Colossians 2:6-10

Psalm 138

Luke 11:1-13

Theme: Prayer in the Way of Christ

***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 celebration of our church family from Ginnie Burger.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 20: Service Sunday – 12:15 PM

July 21: Church Council – 6:30 PM

July 22: Women's Group – 5:30 PM

We have received much interest in holding Ladies' Group in the evening. We will be giving it a try on July 22 at 5:30 PM, pizza will be provided, please let Carol Rodgers know if you can make it.

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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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.
Please, let Evon know by August 1 if you are planning to attend. 814-558-2586