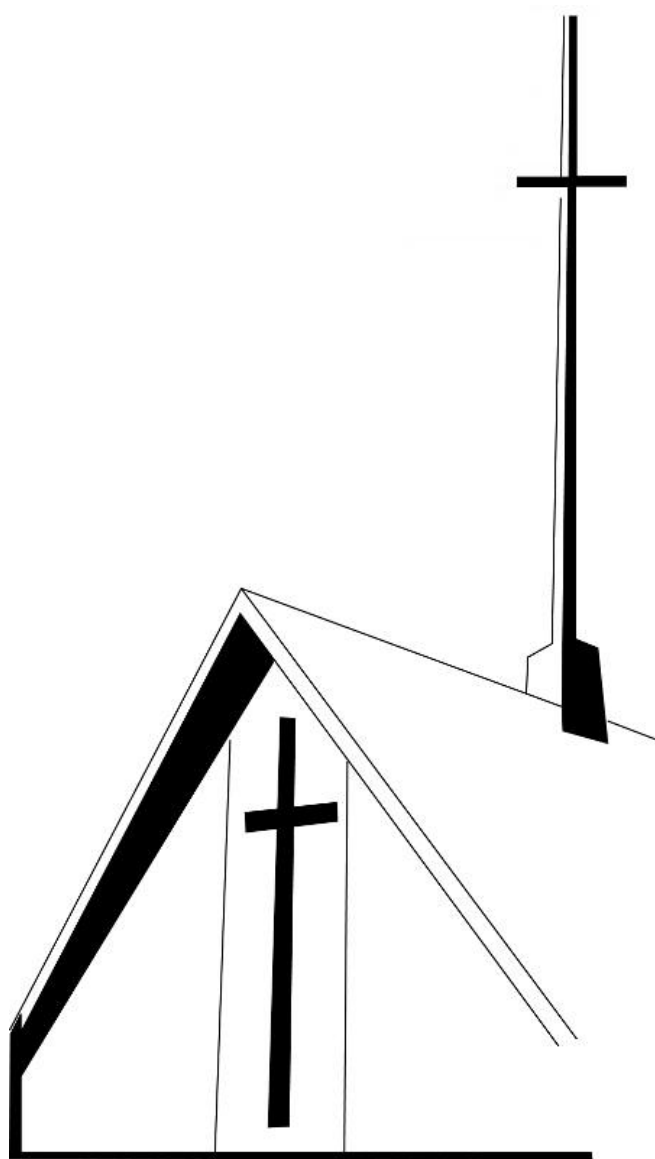


Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



July 24, 2022

11:00 AM

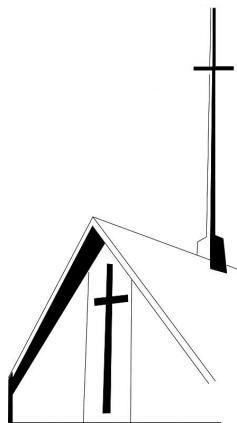
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

From the Day of Pentecost until the day before Advent, the Church is in the Season of Pentecost.

But having moved beyond the holy days of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we tend to call this long stretch of months: Ordinary Time. In truth, there is nothing “ordinary” about Ordinary Time. It is meant to be a period in the Church calendar when we intentionally seek to grow and flourish in faith. The green colors throughout the sanctuary symbolize that. So let us grow together in both Spirit and Love.



Today's Readings:
Colossians 2:6-19
Psalm 138
Luke 11:1-13



Theme: “Pounding on the Door of Heaven with Prayer”

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty, Senior Pastor
Pastor Joy Johnson, Associate Minister

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

Centering Music

Invocation

One: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you, from God our Creator, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our eternal Advocate and friend.

All: And also with you.

One: Holy and loving God, the throne of your glory is heaven—where the ways of your grace and love are never-ending. There, eternal life flows from your heart, granting unending peace for all who are in your presence.

All: O God, you who reign in heaven, hear the prayers and cries of all those who live on earth. Christ Jesus, be our promised Mediator! By the power and presence of God’s Spirit, lift us up that we might be transformed to live on earth as it is in heaven. Amen!

*Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” #136

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

***Opening Prayer**



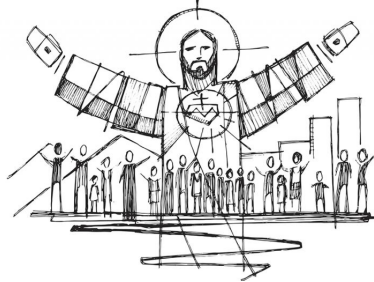
The Sign of Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

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

(You may choose to shake hands, hug, or simply acknowledge one another without physical touch based on your comfort and/or health needs.)



First Reading

Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:6-19

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true,
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

(Repeat all)

Responsorial

Psalm 138

One: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise.

All: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

One: On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

All: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

One: For though the LORD is high, God regards the lowly, but the haughty God perceives from far away.

All: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies.

One: You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

All: The LORD will fulfill divine purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. Amen!

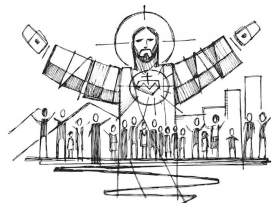
***Gloria**

“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 11:1-13

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

*Father, may your name be revered as holy.
May your kingdom come.
³ Give us each day our daily bread.
⁴ And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial."*

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

"Pounding on the Door of Heaven with Prayer"

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" #484

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call—answer me!
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come—and listen to me.

The Lord is my song the Lord is my praise,
All—my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song the Lord is my praise:
God—the wellspring of life.

(Repeat all)

COMMUNION LITURGY

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. At this table, all who are far off are made very near. We come to the table as 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!

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

One: The Lord be with you.

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

One: *Let us pray:* For the prayer requests that have come to us today, whether joys or sorrows.... [*prayer requests are presented*] Holy and Loving God, in your wisdom, meet all of these needs in the perfect way of your grace.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For all of those who have given up on prayer—that our prayer, even now, might lift their needs to heaven.

All: God hear our prayer!

One: For all those who struggle with true human suffering in the midst of their prayers. May we, the church, rise up and be an answer to their prayers in all times of trouble.

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 offerings can also take the form of financial contributions to the church to support our ministries.

Financial offerings are now accepted online at:

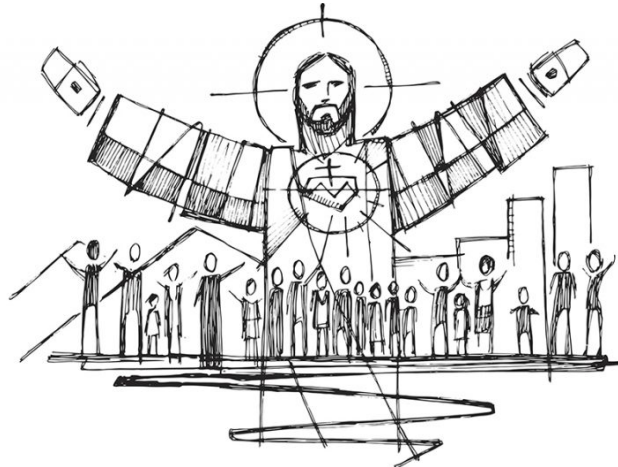
www.communityunited.church/donate/

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 Music and Time for Contemplation

As the offertory music is played, let us stay together in a spirit of prayer and worship. Open your hearts now to what Spirit is saying to you—and moving you to do in the days that we have been given.



*Congregational Response (BLUE) #147

“Praise God, from whom all blessing 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!

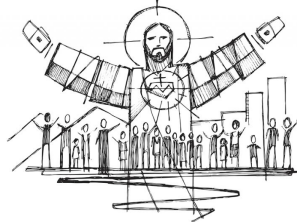
Alleluia!”

*Departing Prayer

One: Holy One of heaven and earth, in your goodness you pour out on your people all that they need, and satisfy those who persist in prayer.

All: Make us bold in asking, thankful in receiving, tireless in seeking, and joyful in finding, that we may always proclaim your coming kingdom and do your will on earth as in heaven. Amen!

*Blessing



*Closing Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” #72

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

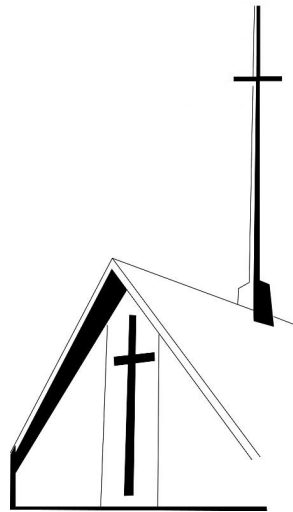
Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Chorus)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Chorus)

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



Next Sunday, July 31: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Readings:

Colossians 3:1-11

Psalm 49:1-12

Luke 12:13-21

Theme:

“Greed, Treasures, and What Really Matters”

*Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect
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 HONOR OF HER MOTHER, CAROL'S BIRTHDAY FROM SHELLY CONRAD

Council Members: Debbie Anderson (President), Bob Martin (VP), Dina Johnson (Secretary), Ginnie Burger (Treas.), Mike Pruzinsky, April Knapp, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, Angel Hall

The Ladies Outreach Group will have their monthly meeting at the Crossroads Diner on Tuesday, July 26. We will meet at the church parking lot at 11:00 and car pool from there. Please contact Carol Rodgers at 814-450-0194 if you are able to attend.

We are looking for volunteers to take the packed lunches to the Upper Room on Service Sundays. Please see Cheryl or Nancy for more information.

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Deacons:

July 24- Angel, Patti
July 31- Sass, Becky
August 7- Becky, Lauryne
August 14- Patti, Volunteer Needed
August 21- Angel, Patti
August 28- April, Natalie

Coming Up:

July 20th- RESONATE 7 PM
July 26th- Ladies Lunch 12 PM
August 3rd- RESONATE Fundraiser Concert 7 PM
Featuring Andrew Rainbow benefitting Liberty House
August 8th- Council Meeting 6:30 PM
August 9th- Liberty House Dinner
August 10th- Spirits and Spirituality 7 PM at Calamari's
August 17th- RESONATE 7 PM
August 21st- Service Sunday

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Meagan Dawson (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Chris Duncan (Marines), Samantha McHenry (Army), Shelby Wescott (Army) and Mathew Anderson (Army)

PRAYERS FOR: Rod & Dew Johnson, Dan Wingerter, four year old Julie, Jill, Phillip Harris, Harry Lamb, Jimmyo, Jimmy Gillespie, Sue Scheiwer, Jesse, Brenda, Grace, John, Julie Davis, Joe O'Hara, Bill, Diane Walker, George Churley, Mandy, Diane, Rose, Dick, JoMarie, Skinny, The Family of Joe Armstrong, Tammy McIntyre, Robin Adams and the family of John Stempka.