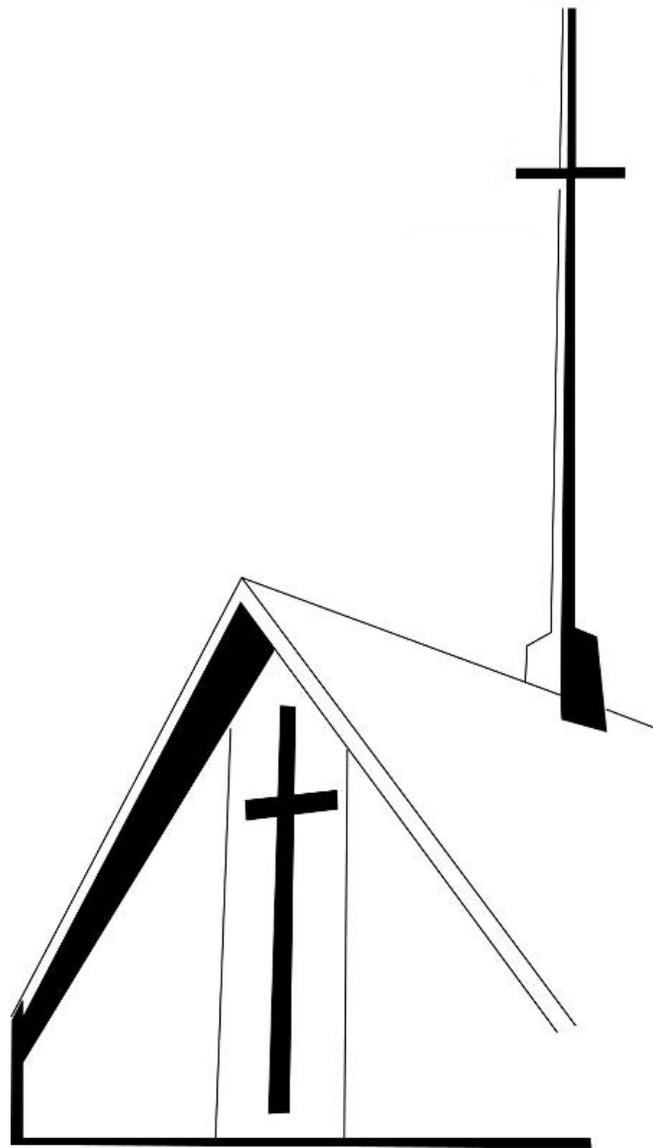


Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



July 3, 2022

11:00 AM

The Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

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

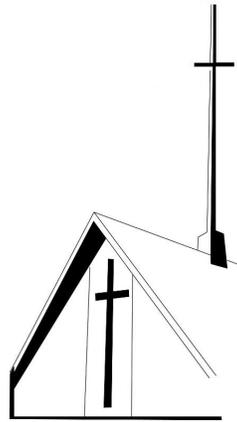
But having moved beyond the holy days of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we tend to call this long stretch of months: Ordinary Time. In truth, there is nothing “ordinary” about Ordinary Time. It is meant to be a period in the Church calendar when we intentionally seek to grow and flourish in faith. The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

Today's Readings:

Galatians 6:1-16

Psalm 66:1-9

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



Theme: “Sowing for a Good Harvest”

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!

Prelude
Welcome, Prayer Requests & Announcements

Shelly Conrad

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, by your Wisdom you created us in goodness. You set us free as creatures with the power of choice. And you invite us to choose what is good, and what will bring flourishing.

All: By your *still-speaking-Word*, renew us, O God! Teach us once more what it means to walk in the ways of the Reign of God. Remind us how to choose well as the creatures you made us to be. All glory and honor and praise to you, Loving God, forever and ever. Amen!

*Hymn

“Great is the Lord” #50

*Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;
By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;
By his mercy he proves he is love.*

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great—is the Lord! Great—is the Lord!

*Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;
By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;
By his mercy he proves he is love.*

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord: I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:
Great—are you, Lord! Great—are you, Lord!

*Opening Prayer

Litany for Our Nation

One: Friends, let us join together in a litany for our nation, as we commemorate its birth.
Let us be in agreement:

All: The world is God's, and all the nations that have been, and will be, can choose to live by God's ancient command: *Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.*

One: The United States is one such nation. On July 4th, the nation will celebrate 246 years of existence—founded with the vision to protect individual liberty and to ensure true justice.

All: On this weekend that the nation commemorates independence from human monarchy, we celebrate what is good of our nation, even as we hear the divine call to 'mend our every flaw.'

One: So, too, we remember that our first loyalty—as followers of Christ—is to the Reign of God, with Jesus as our Sovereign, and Spirit as our guide.

All: If, O God, the nation's cause of liberty is right, and the country's arc towards justice is true, be with us in our virtue. But let the fire of your conviction burn within us to overcome every remaining injustice in our land. Amen!

Song of Dedication

"O God of Every Nation" #626

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
Redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
Where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
From pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

First Reading

Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:1-16 (From: *The Message*)

¹⁻³ Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. *You* might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. ⁴⁻

⁵ Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. ⁶ Be very sure now, you who have been trained to a self-sufficient maturity, that you enter into a generous common life with those who have trained you, sharing all the good things that you have and experience. ⁷⁻⁸ Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

⁹⁻¹⁰ So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith. ¹¹⁻¹³ Now, in these last sentences, I want to emphasize in the bold scrawls of my personal handwriting the immense importance of what I have written to you. These people who are attempting to force the ways of circumcision on you have only one motive: They want an easy way to look good before others, lacking the courage to live by a faith that shares Christ's suffering and death. All their talk about the law is gas. They *themselves* don't keep the law! And they are highly selective in the laws they *do* observe. They only want you to be circumcised so they can boast of their success in recruiting you to their side. That is contemptible!

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate. Can't you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do—submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what *God* is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life! All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them!

Responsorial

Psalm 66:1-9

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God's name!

All: Give to the Holy One glorious praise!

One: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

All: "All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, they sing praises to your name."

One: Come and see what God has done: God is awesome in deeds among mortals.

All: The Holy One turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

One: There we rejoiced in God, who rules by divine might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

All: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard, who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip. 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 10:1-11, 16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶ And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.

One: These are the words of God for the people of God.

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

“Sowing for a Good Harvest”

Pastor Rich

Song of Response

“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 on—ly, 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 befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of 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: All who wish to enter more deeply into the mystery of God through the way of Christ are welcome at this table. So, as you are able, come to the table! Here, God meets us in Christ, through Spirit!

Song of Dedication "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" #587

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Chorus:

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where's there's despair in life let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, every joy. *(Chorus)*

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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 those who struggle with discerning right paths, and in making meaningful choices. May God's Spirit guide them, and us, in all things.

All: **God hear our prayer!**

One: For those who feel like God is punishing them because of the troubles and tragedies of life. May we learn to put that accusing thought behind us. And may we remember to look to Christ in times of trouble, who promises to be with us—in everything.

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: God of fresh beginnings, you make all things new in the wisdom of Jesus Christ.

All: Make us agents of your transforming power and heralds of your reign of justice and peace, that all may share in the healing Christ brings. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” #614

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other—in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

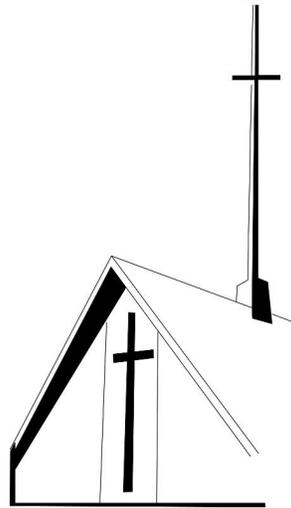
To take each moment and live each moment

In peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth,

And let it begin with me.

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



Next Sunday, July 10: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Readings:

Colossians 1:1-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Luke 10:25-37

Theme:

“Love in Action”

***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!

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

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

Deacons:

July 3- Sass, David
July 10- Lauryne, Natalie
July 17- Patti, Sass
July 24- Angel, Patti
July 31- Sass, Becky

Coming Up:

July 12th- Liberty House Dinner
July 13th- Spirits and Spirituality 7 PM
At Calamari's
July 17th- Service Sunday benefiting the
Upper Room
July 20th- RESONATE 7 PM
July 26th- Ladies Lunch 12 PM

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Meagan Dawson (Army), Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Matt Duncan (Army), Chris Duncan (Marines), Jeremy Celine (Army National Guard), 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, Tom Coakley, George Churley, Mandy, Diane, Rose, Dick, JoMarie, Skinny and The Family of Joe Armstrong, Tammy McIntyre.