

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 14, 2026

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Erie Pride Parade Day

9:30 AM

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Centering Music

“O How He Loves You and Me” #270

O how he loves you and me,
O how he loves you and me;
He gave his life—what more could he give?
O how he loves you, O how he loves me,
O how he loves you and me!
(Repeat)

Invocation

One: God of all, we come together as a beloved community –from many places, with many stories, yet drawn together by one Spirit.

All: We come as one body—many hearts, many voices—held together by the threads of love.

One: Here, strangers become friends, and friends become family—not by blood alone, but by choice, by grace, by God’s own design. We gather as LGBTQ+ people, their loved ones, their allies, and all who champion the cause of justice and compassion.

All: Together we bear witness: this is a place of love and welcome, where every person is embraced and our diversity is honored as a gift of God. Amen!

*Opening Hymn

“Sing a New World into Being “

written by Mary L. Bringle / Sung to the tune of “Come Now Font of Every Blessing,” #68

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme;
Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream:
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being where each gender, class and race
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God’s limitless embrace:
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind.

Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home,
Where no children ever hunger but are filled in God’s Shalom:
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being, join the ancient prophets’ cry
For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry:
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve,
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

***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.

Community United Church Vision of Commitment

God calls us as an open and affirming Christian Congregation devoted to following Jesus' teachings to faith, hope, and love, that all people may find salvation as we respond through worship, study, fellowship, and service. We welcome into our community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure; and we invite them to share in the life leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our congregation as we seek to "reach out and reach up," and as we listen for the God who is still speaking.

Song of Affirmation "As a Fire is Meant for Burning" #551

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers' we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

First Reading

Paul's letter to the Galatians: 3:23-29

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous^[i] by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,^[k] heirs according to the promise.

Responsorial

Psalm 139:13-17

One: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

All: Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

One: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

All: How weighty are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them. 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

John 15:9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants^[a] any longer, because the servant^[b] does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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 "The Power of Your Love" #467

Lord, I come to you; let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I've found in you.
And Lord, I've come to know—the weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away—by the power of your love.

Chorus:

*Hold me close, let your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with you;
Your Spirit leads me on—in the power of your love.*

Lord, unveil my eyes; let me see you face to face,
The knowledge of your love as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind, as your will unfolds in my life,
In living every day—by the power of your love.

(Chorus)

Message "Gathered in Diversity, Grounded in Love"

Pastor Joy

Hymn of Response "The Summons" #350 v. 1,2,4

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go, where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.



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 dream and promise of a world of wholeness, and it is here that we receive the nourishment and strength to continue on the paths of justice. We recall that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is 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 this world into existence and proclaiming from its birth: "It is good." We celebrate the rich diversity of your creation; every beautiful soul, and every expression of love. Through your Spirit, remind us *all* that we are loved—fiercely and forever. Amen.

Pastor: People of God, come to the table!

Communion Music

"I Lift My Eyes Up"

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

"Brave"

Julie Lokahi, Becca Smith,
Bob Martin & Shelly Conrad

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, we thank you for this day to celebrate the beautiful, diverse spectrum of your creation.

All: May we always feel the awesome power of your love and may we share the truth of the safe harbor that is Community United Church. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

When you walk through a storm, hold your chin up high
And don’t be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm is the golden sky
and the sweet silver song of a lark.

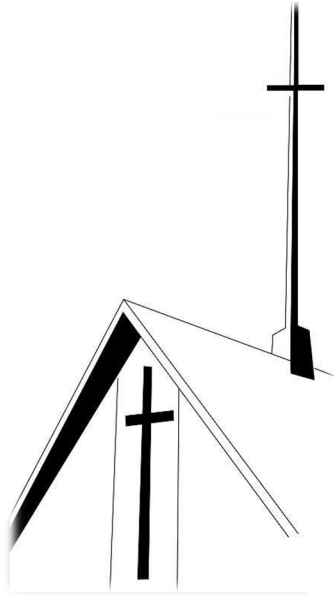
Walk on through the wind,
Walk on through the rain,
Though your dreams be tossed and blown.

Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart.
And you’ll never walk alone!
You’ll never walk alone.

(repeat)



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



**Next Week:
Sunday, June 21, 2026
11:00 AM**

Readings:

Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Matthew 10:24-39

Theme: All are Precious to God

***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 by Linda Weber
In honor of the joys of family.**

- June 14: Today is Erie Pride Parade Day: after worship, we will get ready!
After preparing here, we line up at 11th and State at Noon
- June 15: Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- June 16: Women's Group Luncheon at Calamari's at 12 PM – RSVP to Carol Rodgers
- June 17: Firelight + Fellowship: Summer Resonate 6:30 PM *OUTSIDE*
- June 21: Service Sunday to benefit the Upper Room
- June 27: PRIDE ON THE BAY 12-5 – Please sign up to help out at our space in Liberty Park

*Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew
in the back of the sanctuary.*

*The people of Community United Church express our sincere gratitude to the loving
family of Dave Woledge, for their generous gift.*

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), Connor Bille (Army), and Anthony Bille (US Marines)

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, the Smith and Schmidt families, Linda Weber, Veronica, Patty Puzar,
Joan Schultz, family and friends of Kim Normandy, Michelle and Melissa, Randy Koziol,
Barbara Thompson, Tanisha and Jaeda, family and friends of Lois Simmers,
Barbara Hickey, Lorre Rapp, Sandy Gool, Jim Haglund, Rosie Goss, and Ruth Zavaglia

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

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