

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



June 21, 2026

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Centering Music "Sweet Hour of Prayer" #478 v.1

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief my soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare, by your return, sweet hour of prayer.

**Litany for Father's Day**

One: O Holy One, Divine Parent of us all,

**All: You were called "Abba, Father" by Christ Jesus.**

One: Today we honor, remember, celebrate and surround fathers.

**All: We offer gratitude to you for those who have shaped our lives as fathers.**

One: We pray that your transforming Spirit of love and peace be with all fathers;

**All: Those fathers to children and grandchildren, to nieces and nephews,  
to children in the neighborhood, in classrooms and on the school bus.**

One: May your love, courage, comfort, and strength be with new fathers  
and empty nest fathers.

**All: May your love and comfort be with fathers who are growing into  
choices they have made, with those who grieve, and with those who seek  
to follow the way of Jesus knowing you as Father. May all live in  
hope and peace. Amen.**

**Invocation**

One: O Divine Fire, burning within our hearts, may we be led toward deep awareness of  
your inspiration in the richness of diversity and joy of community.

**All: Together we rejoice in you. Amen!**

\*Opening Hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer" v. 2,3

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for your return!  
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,  
And gladly take my station there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Your wings shall my petition bear  
To him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his Word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.

**\*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**

**Genesis 21:8-21**

<sup>8</sup>The child [Isaac] grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup>But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup>So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." <sup>11</sup>The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup>But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. <sup>13</sup>As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." <sup>14</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. <sup>15</sup>When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup>Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup>And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup>Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." <sup>19</sup>Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup>God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup>He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

## **Responsorial**

**Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17**

One: Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

**All: Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.**

One: You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

**All: Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

One: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call.

**All: Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.**

One: In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

**All: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.**

One: All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

**All: For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.**

One: Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your maidservant.

**All: Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me. 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**

**Matthew 10:24-39**

<sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.<sup>4</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. <sup>37</sup>“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

“Cares” #467

I cast all my cares upon you,  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
Any anytime that I don’t know what to do  
I will cast all my cares upon you.

*(repeat)*

Message

“Precious Ones”

Evon Lloyd

Hymn of Response

“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.

Refrain

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 there's despair in life let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light,

And where there's sadness ever joy.

*(Refrain)*

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.

*(Refrain)*

### Celebration of Communion

Pastor: People of God, come to the table with open hands and love in your hearts, for this is Christ's table—a place where *every person* is valued, treated with kindness, and embraced in fairness and love.

**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

Don Cameron



## **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](http://www.communityunited.church)**

*Or, if you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:*

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

**Offertory/Ministry of Music**

Don Cameron

**Offertory 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: In grace may we live.

**All: In love may we act.**

One: In forgiveness may our hearts be gentled.

**All: In peace may we be whole and go forth to love and serve.**

**For we are, each and every one, precious in Divine love. 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.

Refrain

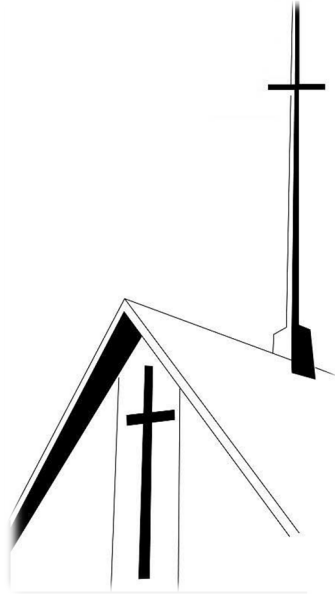
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand has provided—  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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.

*(repeat)*



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



**Next Week:  
Sunday, June 28, 2026  
11:00 AM**

*Readings:*  
Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 89  
Matthew 10:40-42

**Theme: When God Makes a Way**

***Need to contact us for prayer, conversation, or to connect  
online with a small group or church ministry?***

1011 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie, PA 16508

(814) – 864 – 4429

[www.communityunited.church](http://www.communityunited.church)



# Community United Church

**The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Nancy Alberico as she and Mike celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.**

***Congratulations!***

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- July 1: Firelight and Fellowship 6:30PM – Planning for outside!  
July 9: Crafternoon 1:30-3:30 PM  
July 14: Liberty House ministry  
July 19: Service Sunday

***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, Ruth Zavaglia, and Brad Stewart

## **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](mailto:communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com)

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