

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



June 22, 2025

The Second 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

“Jesus, Your Name” #361

Jesus, your name is power, Jesus, your name is might.  
Jesus, your name will break every stronghold, Jesus, your name is life.

Jesus, your name is healing, Jesus, your name gives sight.  
Jesus, your name will free every captive, Jesus, your name is life.

Jesus, your name is holy, Jesus, your name brings light.  
Jesus, your name, above every other, Jesus, your name is life.

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, by your sovereign grace you are making us to be a new people—assembled as one in the resurrected and ascended Christ, by the power and presence of your Holy Spirit.

**All: Bearing your image, we each reflect a part of your creation’s diversity. As one body in Christ, the Spirit is freeing us to live in liberty and to live a life of love. Glory and honor and praise be to you, O Liberating God, now and forever. Amen!**

\*Hymn

“Sing a New Song” #10

Chorus:

*Sing a new song unto the Lord;  
Let your song be sung from mountains high.  
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing, “Alleluia.”*

Yahweh’s people dance for joy; O come before the Lord.  
And play for God on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound. *(Chorus)*

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.  
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song. *(Chorus)*

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.  
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives. *(Chorus)*

**\* 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

## Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

## Responsorial

## Psalm 42 & 43

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

**All: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"**

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise the Holy One, my help and my God.

**All: By day the LORD commands God's love, and at night God's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise the Holy One, my help and my God. 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 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup> Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," <sup>29</sup> for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, "What is your

name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup> Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup> When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup> Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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**

"Thy Word" #664

#### Chorus:

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.

And nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

*(Chorus)*

I will not forget your love for me, and yet—my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side;

And I will love you to the end.

*(Chorus)*

Message

Set Free!

Pastor Rich

## Hymn

### “As the Deer” #471

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;  
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

#### Chorus:

*You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy;  
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

*(Chorus)*

You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king;  
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything!

*(Chorus)*



## 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

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Brad Stewart

## **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

***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**

**"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

**Brad Stewart**

## **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, when we find ourselves trapped, you bring liberation. When we feel lost, you find us. When we are rejected by others, you include us.

**All: We praise and adore you for setting us free, O God, from all that oppresses us—leading us into the freedom and liberty of your love. Amen!**

**\*Blessing**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**"I Surrender All" #474**

All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust him,  
In his presence daily live.

**Chorus:**

*I surrender all, I surrender all,  
All to thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.*

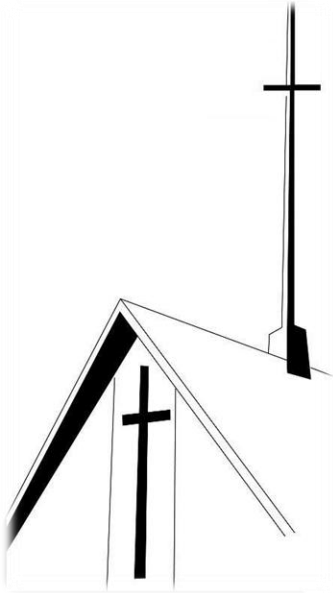
All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at his feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken:  
Take me Jesus, take me now.  
*(Chorus)*

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Savior, wholly thine;  
May thy Holy Spirit fill me,  
May I know thy power divine.  
*(Chorus)*

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to thee;  
Fill me with thy love and power,  
Let thy blessings fall on me.  
*(Chorus)*



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



**Next Week:**

**Sunday, June 28: Erie Pride Parade**

**One Early Service: 9:30 AM**

*Readings:*

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 16

Luke 9:51-62

**Theme: How Do You Use the Power of God?**

***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 and...**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- June 24: Ladies Luncheon Public House on West Ridge Road at noon  
June 28: Erie, PA Pride Festival (Please sign up to volunteer)  
June 29: Pride Parade Sunday – One Service at 9:30 AM  
June 29: Erie, PA Pride Parade – 11:00 AM Lineup

### Reminders:

- ***Need hearing assistance? We have four available units. Please talk to our tech crew in the back of the sanctuary.***
- Have you signed up for **Small Group discussion** opportunities to continue our discernment for **church growth and stewardship**? See signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

### **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, Linda Foll-Johnson, 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, and John & Sandra Ganley

### **Current Council Members:**

Mike Pruzinsky (President), Debbie Anderson (Vice President), Melanie Vadzemnieks (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](mailto:mpruzinsky@icloud.com)

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