

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



June 7, 2026

The Second 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

“Spirit of the Living God” #492

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

Invocation

One: Faithful God, long ago you called Abram and Sarai to leave behind what was familiar and move forward into the future you had prepared for them.

All: Give us courage to trust your leading, leave what is familiar, and move ahead in faith toward the blessings you prepare. Amen!

*Opening Hymn

“He Leadeth Me” #499

He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
What e'er I do, where e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whate'er my lot may be, since 'tis my God who leadeth me.

(Refrain)

And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

(Refrain)

*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 12:1-9

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already^[b] as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³ Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe^[c] in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification,



Responsorial

Psalm 33:1-12

One: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

All: Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

One: He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

All: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

One: The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

All: Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. 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 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #500 v. 1,3

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Message

Trusting God for the Next Step

Lee Pomeroy

Hymn of Response

"Be Not Afraid" #430

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak the words in foreign lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Refrain

Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all.

(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.

Communion Music

“Wayfaring Stranger”

Cheryl

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*] We also pray for everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list [*see the back of the bulletin*]. 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 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 this 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**

*If you prefer to mail in a check, that can be addressed to the church at:
1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508*

Offering / Ministry of Music

“I’ll Be Here With You”

Bob Martin

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Congregational Response #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 love, you call us not only to receive the blessing of being your people, but also to be a blessing to all people on this earth.

All: **Build our confidence and trust in you, so that we may be channels of your compassion and healing to others, for the sake of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen!**

*Blessing



*Closing Hymn

“When Peace Like a River” #428 v. 1, 2, 4

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Refrain

It is well, (it is well)
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control;
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.

(Refrain)

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The horn shall resound and the Lord shall descend:
“Even so” – it is well with my soul.

(Refrain)



Postlude

Cheryl Strecker

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



Next Week:

Sunday, June 14: Erie Pride Parade

Early Service: 9:30 AM

then

Pride Parade Preparation !

*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 by Kathy Koziol and Lorre Rapp in loving memory of Julie Celeski upon her heavenly birthday.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 9: Liberty House
June 11: Crafternoon 1:30-3:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
June 13: Saturday balloons and decorations work starting at 10:00 AM
June 14: Erie Pride Parade Day: **SUNDAY WORSHIP HERE AT 9:30 AM** next week!
PARADE TO FOLLOW: WE WILL LINE UP AT 11TH AND STATE AT NOON
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.

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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