

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



May 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday

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

“Spirit of the Loving 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: Holy and loving God, long ago followers of Christ were promised the gift of the Divine Spirit—your powerful and empowering presence.

All: As we remember the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the first disciples of Christ, we also open our hearts to receive the same gift of God. Amen!

*Hymn

“Let the Whole Creation Cry” #6

Let the whole creation, cry, “Glory to the Lord on high!”

Heaven and earth, awake and sing, “Praise to our almighty King!”

Praise him, angel hosts above, every bright and fair in love;

Sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.

Christians striving for the Lord, prophets burning with God’s Word,

Those to whom the arts belong—add their voices to the song.

Those of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;

All who work and all who wait, sing, “The Lord is good and great!”

Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,

And let children’s happy hearts, in this worship take their parts;

From the north to southern pole—let the mighty chorus roll:

“Holy, Holy, Holy One, glory be to God alone!”

* 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

The Book of Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? —in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.*

*¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.*

*¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.*

*²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,*

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'



Song of Response “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” #489

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.
(Sing three times)

Second Reading

Paul’s Letter to the Romans 8:22-27

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Responsorial

Psalm 104:24-35

One: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

All: **These look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

One: When you send forth your spirit...you renew the face of the ground.

All: **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in all of God’s works—I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. 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 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

[Jesus then said] “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the people of God.

All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!

Message

The Power of Pentecost

Pastor Rich

Hymn

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit” #134

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit,
Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings—we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we’ll know
That we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

(Repeat)

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

“Consuming Fire”

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] 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 these we can do every day. Our offerings can also take the form of financial contributions to the church to support our ministries.

**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

Ministry of Music

“Healing is in Your Hands”

Julie Lokahi

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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

*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: Creator Spirit and Giver of life, pour out your presence upon the whole of creation.
All: Come in rushing wind and flashing fire to transform us with faith, power, and delight. Amen!

*Blessing



Holy God, we praise your name,
Lord of all, we bow before you;
All on earth your scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore you;
Infinite your vast domain,
Everlasting is your reign.

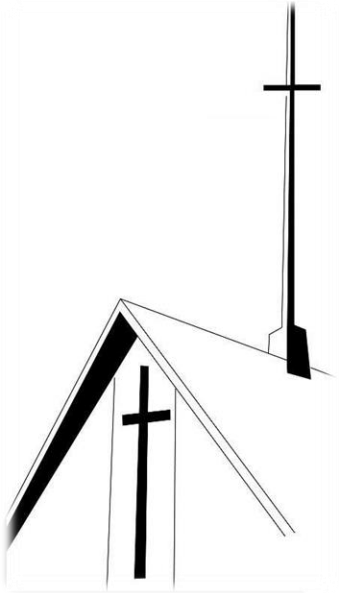
Hark! The loud celestial hymn—
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord.

All apostles join the strain,
As your sacred Name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
While in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim you,
Then, adoring, bend the knee,
While we own the mystery.



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



Next Week:

Trinity Sunday at 11:00 AM

Readings:

Isaiah 6:1-8

Romans 8:12-17

Psalm 29

John 3:1-17

Theme: The Mystery of the Trinity

***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 Patti Rogers in
Memory of Ken & Diana Schneider (Mom & Dad)**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 19: *Service Sunday!* Bagged lunches prepared in the Meeting Room at 12:15 PM
May 19: Brief information meeting for participants in the Craft Fair 6/1 in Fellowship Hall following service.
May 26: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
May 28: Ladies Lunch Venango Country Club. Meet in Church parking lot at 11 AM for a 12 Noon Lunch. Contact Carol Rodgers if you can go and if you can drive.
814-450-0194

SAVE THE DATE: June 1: Craft & Bake Sale at CUC

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

Please submit any announcement requests by **Tuesday** for the Sunday bulletin.

WE REMEMBER THOSE IN OUR ARMED FORCES:

Jacob Snyder (Army), Nick Duncan (Army), Samantha McHenry (Army), Brittany Duncan (Army),
Matt Duncan (Army), Tyler Anderson (Army National Guard), Shelby Wescott (Army),
Matthew Anderson (Army),
Jaden O'Hara (Army) & Toby Charlton (Marines)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Kevin Bennett & family & friends, Rod & Dew Johnson,
Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, Ralph Kester,
John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Jimmyo, Sandy Gool, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone,
Jan & Tim Crowe and Family, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich,
Dave Pakulski, Randi Johnson, Lillian Hendrickson, Ethel Davis,
Jim Haglund, Chelsea Brown, John Waid, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier,
Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Jerry Koziol, Uncle Charlie,
Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Ed Mumau, Renee Gullekson, Sharon Cooper,
Mary Ann Schmeisser, Saundra Carlson, Josh Cook & Danny Kaerberlein, Jenny Jacob,
The Doerfer-DePoorter Family & Jeremiah.

Council Members:

Debbie Anderson (President), Angel Conrad (VP), Nancy Alberico (Secretary), Janice Skelly, Mike Pruzinsky, Michele Vahey, Patti Rogers, Carol Rodgers, and Bob Martin

Community United Church is committed to ethical and legal compliance in our music and livestreaming:
CCLI Church Copyright License: 11405428 Streaming License: 20856761