

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



*May 24, 2026*

Pentecost Sunday

11:00 AM

Pastor Joy L. Johnson

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

Reflection for Memorial Day

Hymn “My Country, Tis of Thee” #731

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:  
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside let freedom ring!

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song:  
Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

**Invocation**

One: God of wind and stillness, long ago Christ's followers were promised the gift of your Divine Spirit—your powerful, life-giving 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 “God is Here!” #1 v. 1,2,3

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praises and prayer  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

**\* 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*<sup>17</sup> '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.*

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

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

*<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,*

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

*<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*

## Song of Response

"Be Still, for the Spirit of the Lord" #129

Be still, for the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.  
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and with fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

*(Repeat)*

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

<sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

## Responsorial

## Psalm 104:24-35b

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" #738

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 20:19-23**

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

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

**All: Come Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God!**

**Children's Message**

Message

*Remaining Still Through Wind and Fire*

Pastor Joy

Hymn

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" #326 v.1,2,3

Refrain

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
And over the eons you called to each thing;  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

*(Refrain)*

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand  
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
And when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

*(Refrain)*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
And down in the city you called once again,  
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

*(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: Remembering that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. 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]. 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**

“Holy Spirit”

Dina Johnson

## 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:** 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



\*Closing Hymn

“Open the Eyes of My Heart” #656

Open the eyes of My heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory;  
Pour out your power and love as we sing holy holy holy.

Open the eyes of My heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

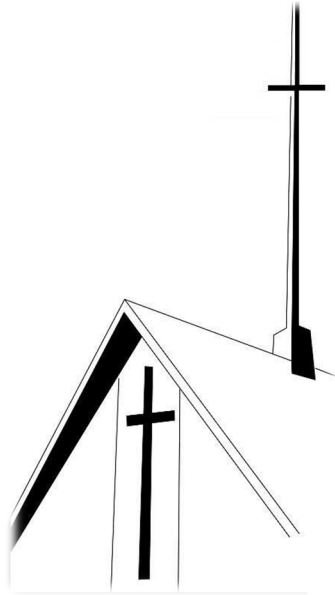
To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory;  
Pour out your power and love as we sing holy holy holy.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy;  
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy;  
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.



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



**Next Week:**  
**Trinity Sunday at 11:00 AM**

*Readings:*

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

Matthew 28:16-20

**Theme: Being Good Stewards: Caring for God's Gifts**

***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 David and Diana Holmes in celebration of their 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary!**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- May 30: Movie Night at CUC – Gather at 4:30 PM  
May 31: Trinity Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM  
June 3: Bible Study / Discussion Group - 6:30 PM  
June 6: CUC Flea Market 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
June 14: ERIE PRIDE PARADE DAY: WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM – PARADE PREP TO FOLLOW

**Save THE DATE: Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> - PRIDE ON THE BAY  
Sign up to help get ready in advance - and to staff the table!**

*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), and Aran Maloney (Air National Guard)

### **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, and Barbara Hickey

### **YOUR 2026 CUC COUNCIL:**

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Davis, Treasurer, Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, Angel Conrad, Chuck Becker, Don Cameron

**And introducing: Juli Tonks – new Council member and Secretary for Council!**

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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“Holy Spirit” artwork courtesy of Evon Lloyd