

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



The Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty & Pastor Joy L. Johnson

Centering Music

“As We Gather” #646

As we gather may your Spirit work within us,
As we gather may we glorify your Name.
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,
We'll be blessed because we came—we'll be blessed because we came.
(Repeat)

Invocation

One: As we convene on the second Sunday of Easter, we acknowledge the enduring significance, majesty, and profound mystery of the resurrection of Christ.

All: Holy Spirit, help us deepen our faith and pursue understanding, knowing Christ's death and resurrection renews and draws us closer to Him. Amen!

* Opening Hymn

“He Lives” #302 v.1,3

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever some may say;
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him he's always near.

Refrain

*He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.*

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.
(Refrain)

***Opening Prayer**

***Sign of Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Song of Reflection

“He is Lord” #305

He is Lord , he is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

(Repeat)

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Responsorial

An Adaptation of Psalm 16

One: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

All: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

One: I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

All: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. 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 20:19-31

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.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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 Contemplation **"O How He Loves You and Me" # 270**

O how he loves you and me,
O how he loves you and me,
He gave his life—what more could he give?
O how he loves you, O how he loves me,
O how he loves you and me.

Reflection

Second Chances in Faith

Pastor Joy

Song of Response "Thine is the Glory" #310

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth: death hast lost its sting.

(Refrain)

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life!
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

(Refrain)



COMMUNION LITURGY

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 the bread and we take the cup and we 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 "Bread of the World in Mercy Broken" 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 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 everyone who has asked their name to be on the prayer list [*see last page 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

God is inviting us to serve in response to God's great love for us, so that the whole world may know the fullness of God's peace.

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

Offertory

“Savior, Redeemer of My Soul”

James Wallace

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: Resurrecting God, deepen our faith amid uncertainty and grant us spiritual clarity to trust beyond appearances, seeing the world through your love.

All: **May your Spiritual wisdom help us show compassion to those in pain, and remind us of your patient love as we seek answers and greater understanding in our journey of faith. Amen!**

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Lift High the Cross” #287

Refrain

*Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world—
adore his sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow
Where our Savior trod,
Our King victorious,
Christ, the Son of God.
(Refrain)

All newborn servants
Of the Crucified
Bear on their brow
The seal of Christ who died.
(Refrain)

O Lord, once lifted
On the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us
Life eternally.
(Refrain)

So shall our song of
Triumph ever be:
Praise to the Cru-ci-fied
For victory.
(Refrain)



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



Next Week:

Sunday, April 19, 2026

The Third Sunday of Easter

Scriptures:

1 Peter 1:17-23

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Luke 24:13-35

Theme:

The Disguised Risen Christ

***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



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***The altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God
and in cherished memory by Kathy Koziol and Lorre Rapp
to remember their Father, Elmer Smith, upon his April 15th birthday***

Coming up:

- April 14: Liberty House – Sharing a meal with our Veterans (Sign up to help out in the future!)
- April 15: Resonate – 7:00 PM
- April 19: Service Sunday—Packing lunches to deliver to the Upper Room residents (sign up to help!)
- April 20: CUC Council Meeting 6:30 PM
- April 21: Ladies’ Outreach Group Luncheon (see Carol Rodgers for more information)

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,
Toni Stevenson, Dave Woledge, Sandra Ganley, Dorothy Moyer, Celeste Peck,
Linda Foll Johnson, Shirley Carrier, Debra Jackman, Zoey Cathie Witmire,
Laura Will, Paul Dietz, the Smith and Schmidt families, Linda Weber, Veronica,
Joan Schultz, Mary Mong, family and friends of Kim Normandy.

Your 2026 CUC Council:

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

CUC IS LOOKING FOR A COUNCIL SECRETARY

We currently have an open position on the CUC Council and are looking for someone who can provide valuable support as Secretary and serve as a voting member. If you are interested, please speak with any Council member or contact the Church office. Thank you!

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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