

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

11:00 AM

Pastoral Team:

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

A Mothers' Day Litany

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: God of grace and love, we honor you today as we honor the mothers of the world.
With grateful hearts we acknowledge your Spirit reflected in the patience and
sacrifice of all who care for others.

**All: With humility, we ask that your gracious guidance empowers us to nurture
and safeguard those around us, mirroring the boundless compassion of Christ,
and the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Amen!**

* Opening Hymn

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" #496

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

(Refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

(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 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor^[e] he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God^[f] and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.' ²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."



Responsorial

Adapted from Psalm 66:8-20

One: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

All: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

One: I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

All: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

One: But truly God has listened; he has heard the words of my prayer.

All: Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. 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 14:15-21

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

Keeping the Commandment of Love

Pastor Joy

Song of Response

“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 All)

COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: People of God, we come to the table with open hands and love in our 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

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

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

“In My Daughter’s Eyes”

Leah 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: Holy and loving God, you gift us with love and life and all that is.

All: Remind us that your Spirit remains with us. Keep us steadfast in faith, uplifted by hope, and strong in the Wisdom and understanding you provide. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Pass it On” #557

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it:
You spread God’s love to everyone, you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it:
You want to sing, it’s fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I’ve found—
On God you can depend, it matters not where you’re bound:
I’ll shout it from the mountain top. I want my world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

Postlude

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



Next Week:
Sunday, May 17
Ascension Sunday
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scriptures:

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Theme:

The Ascension of 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



Community United Church

***The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ginnie Burger and
in memory of nephew Jesse's birthday.***

Coming up:

May 12: Memorial Service for David Woledge in our Sanctuary 4 PM

May 13: Spirits & Spirituality - Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM

May 14: Crafternoon - 1:30 PM

May 17: Service Sunday - EARLY lunch packing at 10 AM

May 18: Church Council - 6:30 PM

May 19: Women's Outreach Group - 12:00 PM

**Join us: Next Sunday, May 17th, we will have a reception honoring
Pastor Rich immediately following the Worship Service!**

***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, Mary Mong, family and friends of Kim Normandy,
Michelle and Melissa, Randy Koziol, Barbara Thompson, Tom Gordnier,
Tanisha and Jaeda, and family and friends of Lois Simmers

Your 2026 CUC Council:

Thea Hyatt, President, Ginnie Burger, Vice President, Tracy Davis, Treasurer,
Michele Vahey, Justin Graff, Angel Conrad, Chuck Becker, 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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FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

2026

| Month | Revenue | Expenses |
|-------|-------------|-------------|
| April | \$10,898.58 | \$10,723.53 |

Thank you for your generosity!

