

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



November 17, 2024

Sundays of Gratitude, Part III:

Grateful for our Church

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!*

Prelude

Kelly McLaughlin

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Centering Music

“Give Thanks” #359

Refrain

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his son.

(Repeat)

And now, let the weak say “I am strong,” let the poor say “I am rich,”
because of what the Lord has done for us.

(Repeat)

...Give thanks.

Invocation:

One: Generous, holy and loving God, You are the true focus of our gratitude, the One who was, and is, and is to come. Today we gather before You to recognize and celebrate shared gifts we have each been given from You – the gift of our Church and its missions, the gift of our ministries, the gift of generosity in our people, and the gift of growth and of substance in being a part of Community United Church.

All: **As we stand in awe of your goodness and mercy today, we invite You to be amongst us by the power of the Holy Spirit. May our gratitude be evident as we read Your Word, lift our voices to You, and speak our hearts to You in prayer. Amen!**

*Hymn

“Will You Let me be Your Servant” #391 v. 1,3,4

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ light for you, in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I’ll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through,



***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.

Welcoming New Members

Song of Reflection

“The Summons” #350

v. 1,2,4

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

First Reading

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 12:27-31

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.



Responsorial

Psalm 106:1-5

One: Praise the Lord!

All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

One: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord or declare all his praise? Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

All: Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them; that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your 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 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Phillippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. (Jesus) said to them, but who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Then (Jesus) sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

One: This is the Gospel of Christ for the People of God!

All: Come, Holy Spirit! Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message



Song

“As the Deer” #471

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

Refrain

You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

You’re my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything!

(Refrain)



Pillars of Gratitude led by Pastor Joy

Grateful for our History and Legacy

Hymn

“Seek Ye First” #349

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!



Grateful for Who We Are

Hymn

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” #472

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth
will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace



Grateful for What We Do

Hymn

“Make Me a Servant” #576

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.
(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

“Play Before the Lord”

Kelly McLaughlin &
Dina Johnson

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

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.

How is God calling you this week to give of your time, talent, and resources?

Community United Church has the following ministries opportunities and needs:

House and Grounds Team
Hospitality for socials and services
Prayer ministries
Food ministries: Liberty House & Service Sunday
Children's Church leaders
Financial gifts to cover monthly needs (every contribution helps so much)
Sanctuary decorating team

Every gift is great. Let us all give joyfully!

If you are not in the sanctuary, online donations can be made at:

www.communityunited.church

and

Checks may be sent *to the church* at: 1011 West 38th Street – Erie, PA 16508

Ministry of Music

“Abba, Father”

Kelly McLaughlin &
Dina Johnson

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: Generous God, Holy Spirit, Christ Jesus: today we honor and celebrate what we have built as Your Church community. We have reminded ourselves of who we are and what we stand for in Your Kingdom on earth, and we have rejoiced in the missions and ministries that You make possible with the generosity and commitment of Your people.

All: **As we continue to be blessed by your never-ending love, grace, and mercy, may we grow in our mission to bless others through our Church. Help us to grow in wonder and awe of what has been and what is possible through a continuing spirit of gratitude and love of which You are the source. Amen!**

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord” #559

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

(Refrain)

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)



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



Next Week – November 24, 2024:

11:00 AM

**Sundays of Gratitude, Part IV:
Grateful for Traditions and New Ways**

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

Psalm 96

Matthew 5:38-48

***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
Kathy Koziol for her Daughter, Leanne's birthday.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 17: New Members Sunday
November 18: Council Meeting 6:30 PM
November 20: Resonate Friendsgiving Meal 6:30 PM – You may bring food contributions and gather together as early as 5:30
November 24: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM

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), 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), Cole Poshett (Army) & Hunter Miaczynski (Army)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, Dew Johnson, Harry Lamb, Diane Walker, Ralph Kester, John M., Todd Carrier, Teddy Long, Tammy McIntyre, Laura Stone, Debra Doerfer & David Magid, Annette Minich, Dave Pakulski, Ethel Davis, Chelsea Brown, Celeste Eller & Family, Shirley Carrier, Dave Woledge, Ev Smith, Karis Fenton, Ruth Schmidt, Carol & Doug Rodgers, Jane Moran, Sharon Cooper, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein, The Vadzemnieks Family, Reverend Susan Strouse & Reverend Barbara Peronteau.

Council Members:

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