

Community United Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



August 18, 2024

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 "Step by Step" #494

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways;
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.
(Repeat all)

Invocation:

One: Holy and loving God, you created us in love. You created us to have whole and happy lives, rooted in you as the *Ground of our Being*, and in full communion with you and all of creation.

All: You promise that as we eat the bread of heaven, and drink the wine of Wisdom, we will be fully filled. Spirit of God, in this time of worship, reconnect us with the food and drink of heaven so that we might be empowered to build your kingdom on earth. Amen!

*Hymn "Sing a New Song" #10

Chorus:

*Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing "Alleluia."*

Yahweh's people dance for joy; O come before the Lord.
And play for God on glad tambourines, and let your trumpets sound.
(Chorus)

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.
(Chorus)

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives.
(Chorus)

***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.

Reading

The Book of Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. ² She has slaughtered her [livestock]; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ³ She has sent out her female servants; she calls from the highest places in the town, ⁴ "You who are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, ⁵ "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ Lay aside immaturity and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Responsorial

Psalm 34:9-14

One: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the reverence of the LORD. Which of you desires life and covets many days to enjoy good?

All: **[If so, then:] keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. 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 6:51-58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." ⁵² [Some of the Jewish people there] then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

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

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

Children's Message

Song

“Nothing Can Trouble” #421

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.
(Repeat)

Message

“The Wine of Wisdom”

Pastor Rich



Hymn

“Eat This Bread” #697

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and you will not thirst.
(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

“I am the Bread of Life”

Dennis TeCulver

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

"My Song of Praise"

Dennis TeCulver

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: Holy and loving God, the bread of life is your living Word. The liberating wine of eternity is your Wisdom. Your Word and Wisdom call to us: *"to eat, and to drink!"* and to so be filled by all good things.

All: Fill our hearts and spirits, O God, that the bread and wine you give to us may spill over to all in need—especially as we go out to love and serve the world. This we pray as children of Wisdom and disciples of Christ. Amen!

*Blessing

*Closing Hymn

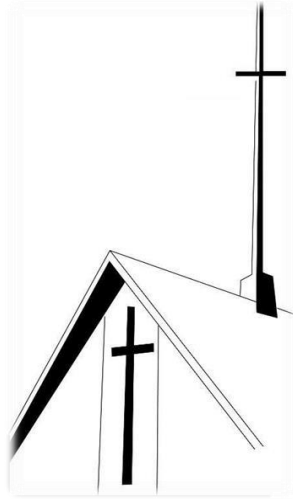
"Christ, You Call Us All to Service" #571

Christ, you call us all to service,
Call us all who follow you;
Plant in us a deep commitment
All your work and will to do.
Fire a passion for your justice,
In us kindle love and peace;
Help us heal the brokenhearted,
To the captive bring release.

Teach us how to work together,
Brothers, sisters, side by side,
Equal partners in the struggle,
In the cause of truth allied.
To each one some gift is given,
Man or woman, young or old;
Help us use each skill and talent
Your great purpose to unfold.

Let us be a servant people,
Reconciling, ending strife,
Seeking ways more just of sharing
And of ordering human life.
Fill us with a glowing vision
Of this world as it should be;
Send us forth to change that vision
Into blest reality.

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



**Next Week - August, 25, 2024:
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Assigned Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:10-20

Psalm 84

John 6:56-69

Theme:

Strong in the Lord

***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 Cheryl Strecker in Celebration of Sarah's Birthday

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21: Appreciation Ice Cream Social at 5:00 PM & Resonate 7:00 PM "On Love"
August 25: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
August 25: Sunday Service 11:00 AM
August 27: Ladies Lunch

SAVE THE DATE! CUC Art Show September 13, 2024 - 5:30 PM

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)

PRAYERS FOR:

Dorothy Moyer, Anna Silvia, 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, 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, Sharon Cooper,
Mary Ann Schmeisser, Josh Cook & Danny Kaeberlein,
The Doerfer-DePoorter Family & Jeremiah, & Linda Foll-Johnson.

Council Members:

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