

# Community United Church

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



August 11, 2024

The Twelfth 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!*

Prelude

Cheryl Strecker, Don Cameron, Sarah Jeanette

Welcome, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

Centering Music

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit #134 2X

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.

Refrain

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.

Invocation:

One: Grace, Mercy, Peace and Love from God our Creator, Christ our Savior and the Holy Spirit, our Eternal Advocate and friend.

**All: And also, with you.**

One: Redeeming God, you satisfy our soul’s hunger through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. May we be like You, filled with Your steadfast love, and may we search for Jesus...while we live in love as You have loved us.

**All: Let Your Holy Spirit illumine our hearts with the light of Your redemption so that we might imitate God’s love by spreading the fragrance of grace wherever there is need. Amen!**

\*Hymn

“Gather Us In” #649

Here in this place new light is streaming, Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken. Gather us in, the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now and we shall awaken, We shall arise at the sound of our name

Here we will take the wine and the water, Here we will take the bread of new birth  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, Call us anew to be salt for the earth  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, Give us to eat the bread that is you  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion, Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away  
but here in this place the new light is shining, Now is the kingdom, now is the day  
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together, Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

**\*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.

**Litany of the Word**

One: Gracious God, your Word calls us to live in love, working honestly to share with the needy, feeding others with the bread of kindness, and forgiving those who may not embrace our forgiveness.

**All: Help us to seek Christ in all of our relationships.**

One: As we strive to imitate you, may we speak truth and dwell in loving community with one another.

**All: Help us to value each other no matter our differences.**

One: When we hear your *nourishing* Word, may we grow in our integrity of heart and strength of character.

**All: Be with us, we pray, as we seek to know you and follow Christ's example. Amen!**

**Reading**

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Responsorial**

**Psalms 34:1-8**

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**All: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

One: O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together.

**All: I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

One: Look to Him and be radiant so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**All: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord and was saved from every trouble.**

One: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

**All: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him.**

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever!**

**\*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 6:35, 41-51**

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 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.”

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

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

**Children’s Message**

**Song**

**“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  
*(Repeat)*



**Hymn**

“Knowing You” #357

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own.  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now compared to this.

Refrain

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.  
You’re my all, you’re the best, you’re my joy, my righteousness, and I love you, Lord.

Now my heart’s desire is to know you more, to be found in you, and known as yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn, all surpassing gift of righteousness.

Refrain

Oh, to know the power of your risen life and to know you in your sufferings.  
To become like you in your death, my Lord, so with you to live and never die.

Refrain

**Celebration of Communion**

One: 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.**

One: 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.**

One: People of God, come to the table!

**Communion Music**

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Sarah Jeanette, flute, and Don Cameron, clarinet



## **Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer ("Debts and Debtors")**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: *And also with you.***

One: People of God, may we center our hearts and open our minds to your leading. Let us lift in prayer those who are named today, whether it be for prayer or praise. (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 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. They 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](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**

Ministry of Music

"The Amazing Grace Blues"

Sarah Jeanette, flute, and Don Cameron, clarinet

## **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: As we have sought Jesus in our worship, our songs and our prayers, Holy God, help us to be energized with Your Spirit and Your power, so that we might be filled with the real Bread of Life.

**All: May we be truly inspired to share this Spiritual Bread so that others may see Christ in us and know, truly, that we are all children of God. Amen!**

\*Blessing

\*Closing Hymn                   “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” #59

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

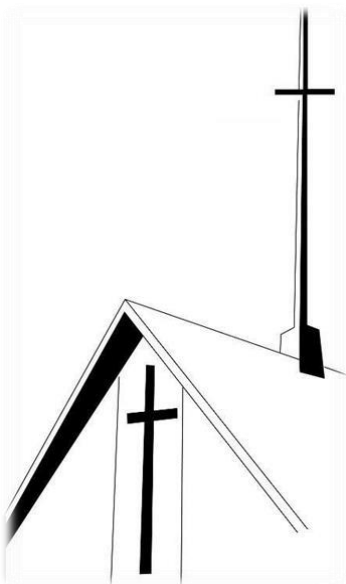
Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o’er us, Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life

Postlude

Cheryl Strecker

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



**Next Week:  
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*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 Pat & Michelle Vahey  
in Celebration of Mom (Barb Hickey's) birthday**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- August 13: Liberty House
- August 14: Spirits & Spirituality 6:30 PM at Calamari's
- August 18: Service Sunday
- August 21: Resonate 6:30 PM
- August 25: Praise & Prayer 9:00 AM
- August 27: Ladies Lunch

***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